

VOLUME LXIII. NUMBER 19202.

THE JERUSALEM



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1996 • SHVAT 26, 5756 • RAMADAN 27, 1416

January COL rises 0.9%

Workers to receive 2.4% increment

> MICHAL YUDELMAN and itim

THE Consumer Price Index rose 0.9 percent in January, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. The increase was a relatively high percentage, especially compared with last year, when the monthly increase was just 0.2%. The January 1994. increase was 0.7%.

Housing costs, up 1.5%, and bealth fees, up 2.3%, contributed the most to the increase. However, the price of fruits and vegetahles was down an average of 3.5%, as were clothing and foot-wear, down 4.2%. Transportation and communications were up, with the increase in the price of gasoline boosting transportanon costs 2.1%.

The Cost of Living increment to be paid salaried workers in February's pay slip, due at the beginning of March, will be 2.4%, according to the agreement reached yesterday hetween the Histadrut and the

employers. The COL increment agreement, which will be valid for two years, is based on a new formula. proposed by the Histadrut; ensuring workers compensation even when the inflation rate is: relatively low.

According to the new formula to calculate the COL increment. the workers should receive a raise of almost 3% on the basis of the COL rise. However, since the workers stready encired 0.5% in August, this will be deducted from the increment, leaving it at 2.4%. Histadrot Chairman Amir Peretz

explained. Peretz noted that the new COL agreement not only ensures the workers compensation at any inflation rate, but also enables them to renegotiate the increment in cases of especially high inflation rates.

The agreement was reached after days of intensive negotiations, in which the Histadrut demanded changing the COL increment system, and the employers insisted on the old system, by which no compensation at all would be paid workers in an annual inflation rate of up to 8%.

The Histadrut also demanded that in an annual inflation rate of. 10% or more, the workers would be compensated for the full increase in the COL index.

Avi Barak, head of the employers' negotiation team, yester-day expressed satisfaction with the new COL increment agreement, noting that "we managed to reach an agreement while preserving fair and correct labor. relations."

Eitan (Eito) Shalem

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ENDS 6:03 6:05 6:03 6:05 6:07





'Davar Rishon' journalist Efraim Davidi (right), chairman of the paper's journalists union, speaks to demonstrating staffers yesterday in Tel Aviv.

ast-minute 'miracle' saves 'Davar Rishon'

DAVAR RISHON, which was to close today, was saved at the last moment yesterday by what many in the newspaper and the Histadrut called "a miracle."

In a dramatic decision, the Histadrut revoked its Sunday decision to close the paper and announced that it would resume its financial support; thus enabling continued

The impetus was provided by the Singer-Barnea group, which undertook to get together some 30 investors for the long-term project of managing Davar Rishon.

Editor-in-chief Ron Ben-Yishai said the group "will invest not only money, but knowhow and commercial ability. The offer comes from the altruistic motive to help the nawspaper..."

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said the Histadion would be a minor partner in the the social voice, the mouthpiece of the work- other newspapers, who came to show solidari-

ers, continues to be heard." The announcement caught Davar Rishon

editors and journalists by surprise, in the midst of preparing what was to be the final edition. Most of them were incredulous, others cynical. "We're afraid of getting our hopes up again," one journalist said. "This might all

turn out to be too good to be true." Peretz said that the Barnea-Singer company undertook to set up a group of investors who will put \$250,000 in Davar Rishon within

a week, while the Histadrut matches the sum. In addition, the Histadrut will continue giving the paper \$1 million a year for the next two

Before the dramatic change, Dayar Rishon's journalists had demonstrated outside project. "We decided to give this historic the paper's headquarters to protest the clonewspaper a chance. It's important for us that sure. They were joined by journalists from

Efraim Davidi, chairman of Davar Rishon's journalists' union, called on the Histadrut to realize its mistake and revoke its decision to close down the newspaper,"

Senior Davar Rishon sources said that contacts with several potential investors, including the Singer-Barnea group, had been under way over the past months, but the Histadrut's decision to cut off the paper's financial pipeline did not enable them to reach fruition.

"It is more likely that due to public pressure, the Histadrut was searching for a ladder to climb down from the limb and change its decision to close Davar Rishon," one source

"This way it has a good excuse to resume financial support to the newspaper at least until after election year," he saio. "After all. the Histadrut is always demanding that owners lay a preserve jobs. Why can't it do it with one of its own companies, like Davar Rishon?"

Husseini plan would evade blocking of PA rule in capital

BILL HUTMAN

FAISAL Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, has proposed establishing a Palestinian Development Company of Jerusalem to get around Israeli opposition to the Palestinians setting up their own administration in eastern

Husseini presented the idea last week at a closed forum of Palestinian political figures at the Hakawati Theater in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem.

Sources at the meeting said the proposal was for the company to serve as a Palestinian municipality. The council members, or "board of directors," would be chosen by stockholders, who in effect would be the entire Palestinian population, 18 and older, of Jerusalem.

All adult Palestinians in the city will be asked tn pay one shekel for "stock," making them officially eligible to vote for the board, as in other public compames, the sources said.

Husseini told the forum that the proposal is the only way to unilaterally get around Israel's ban on the Palestinians establishing their own authority in Jerusalem, according to the sources. He said that past proposals for

establishing Palestinian shadow city councils had proven unworkable, because of Israeli opposition. Palestinian sources said Husseini, who did not run in last month's Palestinian elections, sees himself as the natural head of the proposed company.

In a telephone interview yes-terday, Husseini confirmed he presented the proposal, and that he hopes it can be implemented soon. "We can provide all the services [with the company] education, planning, all the needs of the people," he said. "The Israelis have a Jerusalem

Development Corporation, so there is no reason that we should not be able to have one," Husseini said.

He added that the company's bnard might not necessarily be elected by the general Palestinian public. "That is just nne of the ways being considered. We still haven't decided who will choose the board, and exactly how large it will be," Husseini said.

Meanwhile, over a quarter of a million Moslems are expected to attend the final Friday prayer services of Ramadan at Al Aksa today, forcing police to close down roads around Jerusalem's Old City to all but public transportatinn in an effort to make way for the expected crowds.

Some 70,000 Moslem worshipers attended prayer services last night at Al Aksa, with the crowd expected to grow to nearly 300,000 today.

Jerusalem police are to he out in unprecedented force. Security sources said the major concern remains as it has been most of the week - that Hamas will attempt a revenge attack for the killing last month of terrorist bomber Yibye Ayyash, allegedly by the General Security Service.

Palestinians from the territories under the age of 30 are forhidden to enter the city today under the partial closure, which has been eased somewhat. A similar partial closure last Friday, nd many l youths able to enter Jerusalem illegally and attend prayers at Al

"The situation will be tense," Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit

told reporters yesterday.
Police sources noted that the other large Friday prayers of Ramadan passed quietly, leaving hope that there would be no incidents today, but police are taking no chances: some 2,000 policemen are to be on duty in eastern Jerusalem. Amit is to oversee security in a mubile command unit, aided by a police helicopter.

Palestinians from the territories have complained that even the limited closure preventing ynunger Palestinians from Al (Continued on Page 2)

IATA head: Palestinian airline likely soon

THE director-general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said yesterday that he expects a Palestinian airline to become operational by this summer. Pierre Jeanniot, who heads the

organization made up of airlines from around the world, met on Wednesday with Palestinian Council President Yasser Arafat and with Fayeez Zeidan, who is in charge of civil aviation development for the Palestinian Authority. Jeanniot said that the Palestinian airline would begin on a limited scale, with shuttle flights between Gaza and the West Bank. Flights further afield will come

Initially, Jeanniot said, the air-line would operate under the unbrella of an Israeli permit, since all airlines must have a permit from a recognized authority. Any further development, he said, would have to be a result of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The Palestinians would have no

problem with personnel, he said,

since they have trained people who have been employed in other countries. The PA currently has two planes, each capable of carrying up to 50 passengers, donated by the Dutch government. Apparently, other states will also contribute aircraft, he added.

Jeanniot said that one of the problems of air transportation in the Middle East is that air space is fragmented between the states of the region. He added that he would like to see a more rational use, similar to that in Europe. He said he is aware of the problem facing Israel as a result of the refusal of Saudi Arabia to allow overflights, and he would "remind" the Saudis of this when he

meets with them. He also noted the severe congestion at Ben-Gurion Airport, and urged the government to deal with the situation quickly if it wants to reap the benefits of increased interest in Israel as a tourist destination as a result of the peace process.



CANCELLATION

We regretfully announce that the meeting due to be held at Beit Sokolov, on February 22, 1996, with Minister Shulamit Aloni will not take place.

We extend apologies for the late notice.



Dizengoff Center, 45 Dizengoff St., Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5251336

Navy helps repair Egyptian fishing boat

SAILORS on a navy Dabur missile boat stopped an Egyptian fishing boat nff the coast of Gaza yesterday, and helped the fisherman repair their faulty engine and return to port in

Egypt.

The Dabur was on a routine morning patrol off Gaza when it noticed that an Egyptian fishing boat had entered Israeli waters. The sailors called on the fisherman to heave in, but the Egyptians ignored them. The Dahur pursued them, forced them to halt, then discovered that the fishing boat's engine had a hreakdown which forced the boat into Israeli waters.

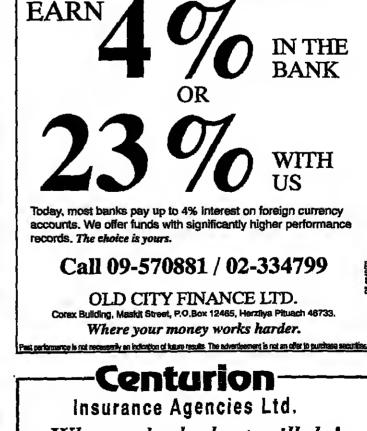
The fisherman said that a certain engine part had malfunctioned and they couldn't return home. The sailors lashed the two boats together and started searching for a part that would solve the Egyptians' problem. After about an hour, the part was located and the sailnrs helped the fishermen repair their

After thanking the Israel Navy, the fishermen headed for

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THE Liked plans to move up its

primary to March 18 from the

The March 26 primary date

was initially scheduled when elec-

tion day was slated for October

29. Now that elections will be

moved up to May 28 or June 4.

the Likud wants to get the prima-

ry battle over with to gear up for

Another concern is that Labor

has rescheduled its primaries to

March 25. This was interpreted as

a hostile act, designed to distract

public and media attention from

AGUDAT Yisrael faction head

Avraham Shapira will unt he

heading the party's Knesset list in

the next elections, and "most

likely" will be replaced by Bnei

Brak contractor Moshe Haim

The council is scheduled to

issue. In addition to Schoenfeld,

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Meir

Porush, son of long-time Aguda

MK Menahem Porush, will also

be included high up nn the list,

Shapira, however, said that he

knows of no move to replace him.

"It is all words," Shapira said.

"No one has told me that I should

leave my post. If the rebbe tells

Knesset candidates.

the source said.

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required.

compensation for lost property.

registered in the Land Registrar.

claims for restitution.

the main battle.

iginal March 26 date, sources

Likud primary

to be moved up

SARAH HONIG

Meanwhile, the Labor leader-

ship is expected to continue re-

viewing options for election dates

over the weekend. A too Labor

source said that June 4 remains

the most plausible choice, in view

of the religious parties' insistence

on not having the election close

Labor hopes to wio opposition

concessions for agreeing to June

4. It wants the opposition to drop

its insistence that campaign ad-

vertising be screened on Channel

2, and its opposition to amending

the law forbidding TV to show

candidates during the month be-

to Shavuot.

Yoel Bin-Nun: Mistake to back Netanyahu

HERB KEINON

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria aod Gaza made a mistake in publicly endarsing Binyamin Netanyahu, and would make an even greater mistake if it launched a personal campaign against Shimon Peres, Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, the renegade member of the council's executive, said yesterday.

"I am against negative personal campaigns," Bin-Nun said. "1 have seen two negative personal campaigna, one against Menaehem Begin and one against Yitzhak Rabin. And I am not prepared for this to happen again.

Bin-Nun was responding to reports about a document that allegedly details plans for the settlement council to lead a smear attack against Peres. The council has denied that such a document exists, or that attacking Peres personally is their strategy.

Bin-Nun, for his part, said he doesn't know if such a document exists. He said, however, that the conncil in the past decided tn wage a personal campaign against Rabin. Uri Ariel, head nf the council, denied this charge.

According to Bin-Nun, the settlement movement is shooting itself in the foot by publicly and actively supporting Netanyahu. "And what will happen if Peres wins? This is a very irresponsible move." he said.

Bin-Nnn eaused a furor five days after Rabin's assassination when he announced that he knew of rabbis who gave halachic backing for the killing. Police investi-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police seeking accident witnesses

crossing Allenby Street at the corner of Rehov

bypass road. There were no injuries or damage.

Tel Aviv police are seeking witnesses to the February 6

Tchernichovsky. She died of her injuries on Wednesday

Pipe bombs explode near Nablus.

Three pipe bombs exploded yesterday in the Mount Eval area near Nablus, as an IDF convoy was traveling on the Nablus

accident in which Bruria Karon, 83, was hit by car while

gated a oumber of rabbis, but nothing came of the accusations. Ariel rejected Bin-Nun's criticism of the council's endorsement

of Netanyahu, saying the council has legitimate criticism of the government's polices. "What are we supposed to do,

say amen to every move the government makes because of a fear that if we don't, they will get back at us later? We will do what we can to ensure the victory of the national camp, and if a Peres government intends to take nut their vengeance nn us, then that is a scandal," Ariel said.

Eyal Arad, a public relations adviser to the settlement council and fnrmer aid tn Netanyahu whose name was linked to the dncument alleging the council's plan for a smear campaign, said the council is preparing a campaign under the headline, "I am sure of the national camp.'

Arad said he never saw the smear campaign document, and that as a public relations man he sees "three or four people every day with ideas, snme nf them completely crazy. I nod my head politely, and then continue without any intentinn of using them further. It is possible that somenne close to the council, or somenne whn wants to give them suggestions, wrote a document, or that it is the document of an emplnyer of an advertising agency. But never, tn the best nf my knowledge, was a personal smear eampaign ever discussed nr



An elderly Palestinian man berates an IDF soldier standing guard on a jeep at a building site on the Ramallah bypass road yesterday. Demonstrations by Palestinians against confiscation of land for the bypass roads were held throughout Judea and Samaria.

'Al-Ahram' attacks Barak

CAIRO (Reuter) - The Egyptian gnvernment newspaper Al-Ahram attacked Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak yesterday, saying remarks he made in the US cast doubt on Israel's sincerity in

the peace process. 'When he speaks in this arrogant language and aggressive spirit and with this erroneous logie, he undermines all Iarael'a commitments to peace and deepens the doubts about its real intentions in the region," it said in a front-page report.

The newspaper said Barak told a Jewish gathering in the US that Israel is living "in a villa in the

"This villa is characterized by wealth, it enntains civilizatinn and technology, but notside the windows other, different laws and principles apply, and there is on place and no rights there for

Aksa is a violation of their reli-

gious freednm, and demanded

that all-Moslems be allowed to

attend prayer services at the holy

Ponce presence will emaio

beefed op in eastern Jerusalem

through the Lil El-Khader holi-

day after the end of the Ramadan

Barak upset Israel's Arab neighbors last month by referring to Arab leaders as "jellabas," the gown or cloak worn by some men in the Middle East. He later retracted the remark.

The al-Ahram enmmentary said of his latest reported gaffe: "It shows a glaring contradic tinn between Israel's repeated claim that it wants to coexist with its neighbors and its desire to

master and dominate others. "Perhaps Barak wanted to win early the votes of the American Jews in an attempt to overthrow [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres and occupy the prime minister's seat in his place."

It said Israel should be the last to talk about human rights and

"Israel's vinlations of human rights are known to all," it added.

fast next week, police snurces (Continued from Page 1)

> Dozens of Palestinian youths rained stones and bottles on police outside Damascus Gate lastnight. Several people, including a .: 10-year-old boy hit in the head with a rock, were lightly injured by accident during the confrontation, a Magen David Adom

weighs nto party

THE 49-member Meimad executive was meeting late last night to decide on whether to turn into a political party, or whether to remain an ideological movement.

Rabbi Michael Melehior, the chairman of the executive, said that if the movement becomes a political party, it then will have to decide whether to sign up with the registrar of parties and run in the upcoming elections.

Only then, he said, will Meimad decide if it is to run alone, or to join up with another party.

Melchinr denied that Meimad and the Third Way have oegotiated over running on a jnint ticket, and said that this will all and discussed if Mennad registers as

Meimad's head, Minister With out Portfolio Yehuda Amital, was involved in the Third Way and attended a number of meetings of its executive early last

Meimad

there is no announcement. Until now there has been no hint that I step down.' candidacy. "Every four years he

me to teave, then there is no

shame in it, and I will leave. But

Schoenfeld, a senior Agudat Yisappears as the one who will rerael source said yesterday. place me, that he will be the nne The source said it is clear that to run. If the rebbe decides he is the Gerer rebbe, Pinhas Menahem Alter, wants to see "fresh" the persnn, I will congratulate faces on Aguda's list. Alter is co-Schoenfeld, 56, said that if the head of the party's Council of Sages, which determines its

'Aguda head to go'

Gerer rebbe believes he is suited for the job, "I will take it on."
He denied actively campaignmeet next week to discuss the

ing for the position, but said, "I am a political being finm my youth. I have gone through all the different frameworks in the party, starting with youth group counselor, to commander of the haredi Nahal, and including all the nrganizations' different frameworks."Schoenfeld was a major in the IDF and commander of the haredi Nahal, since disbanded, in the 1950s.

Winning cards and numbers

in last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 057989

The hulder of ticket number 200039 won a car. Tickets . numbered 650788. 113745, 384036, 237438, 126304,

072922, 854013 and 276527 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 13030, 78433, 53337, 73972, 77151, 32202, 10770, 43563, 93892, 80121, 52967, 99659, 71985, 26693, 90513 55539, 04492, 52071 and 17729 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 434, 802, 079, 119, and 393 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 88, 70, 86, 21 and 47 won NIS 24.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, nine of hearts, jack of diamonds and eight of clubs.

BIRTH

ACKERMAN - With much gratitude to Hashem, Surie and Tzvi Ackerman announce the hirth o Shira Penina on February 14, 24 Shvat. Sister to Elisheva, Aharon Yaakov, Mordechai, Michael and Liba Leah, Mazal tov to the grandparents and greatgrandparents.

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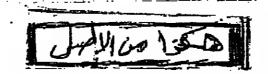
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אנף השיווכ



The Jerusalem Post



Mazal Fikdu, who graduated a course for dental assistants and hygienists at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dentistry this week, is congratulated by her sister Tami. The course, the third of its kind for new immigrants, was extended from a year to 18 months because of language difficulties and cultural differences. Of 23 women who started the course, 21 graduated. Eleven are Ethiopian immigrants; the others are veteran Israelis and Russian immigrants. (Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Avi Hayoun)

Jerusalem Municipality takes no steps against manager who insults Arab workers

BILL HUTMAN

THE Jerusalem Municipality has taken no action against a department head who made derogatory comments about Arab workers, despite the fact the comments:

were verified in a tape recording. "I don't need Arabs here. Let them all go to hell. I don't need them," acting sanitation department head Amram Sharvit said on the tape. Arabs make up a large percentage of workers in the department, and have complaioed in recent weeks about treatment by Sharvit. treatment by Sharvit.

"If they want to complain, let them go to Orient House. --them," Sharvit said, according to quotes from the tape released by Meretz city councilor Ornan Yekutichi The tape was given fo Yekutieli carlier this week by an Arab worker in the department.

Yekutieli turned to Mayor Ehud Olmert, who appointed ed action be taken against the department head. Yekutieli also made public the earlier complaints.

. The city, however, has decided to take no action against Sharvit. Instead the municipality has informed the workers that if they have complaints they should be filed with the police, according to a statement by the municipal spokesman.

The spokesman charged Yekutieli with "cynically taken advantage of the sensitive situation in the sanitation department in order to gain points in his party's

Yekutieli, in a letter to the mayor said, "This is not the way to run a city inhabited by two peoples. Racism is explosive material that has the potential of breaking through the walls of the sanitation department and setting

Jerusalem Post Staff

NEWS IN BRIEF

'US didn't seek Egyptian mediation in Iraq' The US State Department yesterday issued a statement asserting that, on his recent trip to Cairo, US-Ambassador Robert Pelletreau "did not ask for any sort of Egyptian mediation in Baghdad." The State Department's announcement was issued in response to a report by Pinchas Inbari in The Jerusalem Post on February 14, which cited Arab sources as stating that Pelletreau asked for Egyptian

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Rachel's Tomb wall outrages Bethlehem

PALESTINIANS demonstrating near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem yesterday to protest the building of a wall there almost came to blows with the army.

Demonstrations were also held in five other locations to protest settlements. They were arranged by the "nationalist-Islamist antisettlement committee."

A march of more than 200 schoolgirls, youths, and local notables threatened to get out of hand in Bethlehem, as the marchers waded 20 abreast into a barrier of Palestinian policemen,

whose linked arms gave way under the pressure. The marchers theo cootioued towards Israeli border policemen, who refused to let them advance.

They carried banners protesting the building of a security fence at Rachel's Tomb, which has divided the main road leading toward Jerusalem, a step the IDF says is temporary until the wall is built and the remaining two lanes can be reopened.

Palestinians do not believe the lanes will be reopened and consider it a reinforcement of the

JON IMMANUEL

closure Youths then tried to pelt the border policemen with stones, many of which laoded in the midst of the demonstrators. Pal-

Salah Taamari, the former commander of PLO forces in south Lebanon, who emerged as the most popular candidate in Bethlehem for the elected 88member council, led the school-

commitment that the plan to turn

Zuckman. "This is what we have

fought for over the past two

years. It is one of the most impor-

tant agreements ever reached and

we hope it is now going to be

Negotiations are continuing at

Rafael over management's plans

to trim the work force by an addi-

tional 600 employees who are all

The focus of attention in the

be frozen for two years.

ed to protect the many Israelis who come to Rachel's Tomh on certain days of the year," noted Maj. Udi Zrahiya, commander of the civil liaison unit. estinian policemen chased and ar-

rested some stone-throwers. oator in the territories, Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor, other city notables, such as deputy mayor Hanna Nasser, were in the front line. "We don't see any reason children in marching on the

for this wall," he said. A colleague noted that "Ra-"The wall is simply being erectchel's Tomb may be in area C, but it is also inside the Bethlehem

municipal borders." Col. Farouk Amin, the District Coordinating Office commander, Although Beihlebem Mayor noted that "during 28 years of occupation, the Israelis did not Elias Freij had apparently reached a temporary understandbuild this wall. Now they are doing with the government coordi-

ing it just to give everybody a bad feeling about peace." Abdel-Salem Abu Shukhaidem, a local Wakf Ministry official said it is all being built on

George Habash wants to return

Rafael into a public company will GEORGE Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has added his name to a list of Palestinian National Council members who wish to return, but it is unclear whether he will be "Without this commitment there can be no agreement," said allowed to do so.

Habash, one of four PNC members or observers deeply involved in terrorism, led a wave of civilian aircraft hijackings in the early 1970s. The PFLP 15-member polithuro made its decision in Damascus 10

days ago that anyone afte to return to Palestine should do so, and Habash, who had said he would not return while refugees were unable to do so, was overruled. His deputy. Abu Ali Mustafa, is also on a list of 25 names added to

the 193 names already given to the IDF. The new list has been returned to the Palestinian Authority with a request for more details on some of those named. The politburo made its decision after criticism by West Bank and

Gaza PFLP members, who warned that "it looks like the PFLP is not ready to take up its responsibility after the elections," spokesman Riyad Malki said.

Salim Za'anoun met with PFLP officials in Amman last week and presented their list to the PA on Tuesday.

Rafael workers end hunger strike; agreement reached in principle

DAVID RUDGE

DOZENS of Rafael workers who began a hunger strike on Sunday in protest against management's intention to fire them ended their fast yesterday evening.

The decision was made after works committee representatives were informed by senior Histadrut officials that an agreement had been reached in principle to resolve the dispute.

The accord, draft copies of which were given to the works committees, still has to be ratified by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. David Zuckman, chairman of the Rafael action committee, said they were optimistic that the accord would be approved by Peres

after already being agreed by the

Treasury, the Defense Ministry,

management and the Histadrut.

Under the accord, 400 government employees out of the 4,300-

strong work force at the giant armaments development anthority' plant south of Acre are to teave of their own accord over the next two years with preferential severance pay terms and pension The remaining workers have

also agreed to accept an 8 percent cut in their salaries, as well as forgoing other benefits. The funds saved in these steps

are expected to save the concern another 5 percent on the annual payroll bill.

future is expected to switch to this sector, if the agreement regarding the government employees is approved and signed.

on contracts.



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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O.Box S1, Romema, Jerusalem (91000) Telephone 02-315666.Fax 02-389527. CIRCULATION - 02-315610. Fax 02-389017. ADVERTISING - 02-315608, 02-315637-40 Fax 02-388408. TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamusger, P.O.Box 23398 (61283) Telephone 03-639033, Fax 03-6390277. HAJFA: 20 Nordau, Hadar Hacarmel, Telephone 04-623166. Published daily, except Seturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. 6 The Jerusalem Post 1996. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS

Inauspicious beginning

F the manner in which the election campaign began this week indicates its direction, the country is in for four months of frustration and disappointment. While virtually all parties agree that the country is facing a decision of momentous importance, few seem determined to conduct a debate commensurate with the seriousness of the issues.

On television last night, Likud MK Dan Meridor blamed Labor for the campaign's unfortunate tone. The party in power, he said, has obviously decided to appeal to emotions; we will appeal to reason.

There is little doubt that the first part of his statement is accurate. Prime Minister Shimon Peres's decision to start his televised announcement on early elections on Sunday with a drawn-out, heavily sentimental description of the assassination presaged Labor's strategy. And Leah Rabin's statement on radio the following day, "We shall never forget who the murderer was and who was murdered, and we shall never forgive," reinforced the impression that the election date has been advanced mostly to exploit the public's reaction to the assassination. It was a not-so-veiled repetition of her charge that the Likud and its leader share the blame for the murder.

Only the election results will show if the public is as susceptible to this emotional assault as Labor believes it is. But it will be a shame if an historic opportunity to conduct a serious public debate on the day's great issues is

By adhering to Meridor's pledge, the opposi-

tion may make rationality prevail. But the Likud, far behind in the polls, may also be tempted to respond to Labor's strategy by launching personal attacks on Peres. If it resists such temptations and trusts the intelligence and maturity of the electorate, it will do the country a great service.

The media will play a larger role than ever, and it must be hoped that they will shun the kind of sensationalism which caters to the baser tastes of its consumers and tempts politicians to appeal to the voters' lowest denominator.

It would be nice, too, if the reporting of events is separated from editorial advocacy and done with a modicum of fairness. Israel Television's Channel 1 is particularly offensive in its servility to the government's cause. Statistically, it has been shown to feature appearances of government officials four times more often than it does opposition leaders. It badgers and interrogates opposition representatives in a manner which can only be called unprofessional. And its coverage of Peres's activities recall the bad old days of Jordan Television, when the first few items of every news broadcast invariably described His Majesty the King's doings, regardless of how trivial they may have been.

It is difficult to imagine that ITV really believes that every visit of the prime minister to a town, army camp, or school is so newsworthy that it must appear at the head of the news, while similar visits by opposition leaders are given sbort shrift. ITV may be government owned, hut it must not let itself become a government organ.

The hunt for justice

TO one doubts that hideous and unforgivable crimes have been committed in the war in former Yugoslavia. Nuremberg set the bottom line for standards of international behavior after World War II, and its lessons may bave been ignored many times since, but that is no excuse for continuing to ignore them. The current buck-passing over who is responsible for enforcing the international mandate of decency on Bosnia's war criminals should cease.

There is no reason wby the various layers which peace must be imposed in Bosnia cannot be implemented concurrently; to ensure that the Dayton accords are known to be a comprehensive peace and not merely another wobbly cease-fire. Stopping the fighting and delineating the territory are obviously priorities without which nothing else can be done. But beyond this, the return of refugees, the restoration of democratic processes, the imposition of the rule of law, and the dispensing of justice are the layers in the bedrock of future peace and

The Implementation Force (IFOR) effort in Bosnia, while eminently more effective than that of the United Nations, nonetheless remains lopsided, with undue emphasis on military operations. The civilian side of the effort, beaded by Carl Bildt, bas been strongly and rightly criticized for being slow to start, dithering in its decision-making, and weak in its insistence on enforcing the Dayton accords. The international force is not in Bosnia to renegotiate Dayton. It is

there to implement it, as its name states. The issue of war criminals is a case in point. It is disturbing that no one had been willing to coordinate procedures with the War Crimes

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR I

'STATUS QUO ANTE'

Tribunal in the Hague and lay down a policy for arresting suspects before the matter became yet

another Serb-Moslem squabble. It is clear the comhatants are never going to agree on the other side meting out justice so soon after the conflict. The Moslem-led Bosnian government may have had very good reason to arrest and hold two Serb officers for war crimes - hut it is not really their business to do so. Such action just invites the other side to make tit-for-tat arrests regardless of the evidence.

Given the post-facto situation. US Richard Holhrooke had little choice hut to authorize the transfer of the Serb prisoners to the Hague, where the Tribunal will draw up indictments - hut this was putting the horse before the cart. It should long ago have been clear that it is the Hague which must prepare cases and issue arrest warrants for IFOR to execute. Such a procedure leaves little room for argument, especially since the tribunal clearly wants to charge Moslem and Croat war criminals as well as

This procedure has now been agreed - yet NATO commanders are complaining they have no orders or guidelines on making arrests. The affair of the Serb officers bas already stalled the Dayton implementation, threatened a renewal of bostilities, and dented the credibility of IFOR. NATO has been given no information or mandate allowing it to identify or arrest suspects. The answer is clear - the Hague must assure itself of the evidence against individual suspects, it must issue details, photographs, and arrest warrants to NATO for passing on to its officers, and the troops on the ground must, under the mandate of Dayton, detain and return fugitives to the Netherlands.

'POLITICALLY

. Sir, - All major staff studies carif Israel itself had lost a major war ried out by the American military against Syria. All this seems to premake it clear that without the Golan suppose that Israel will not be at-tacked again in the foreseeable fu-Heights and the West Jordan buffer land, Israel can, under the best of ture - a Russian roulette type nf gamble with suicide as a procircumstances, sustain an effective grammed possibility.

As I see it, the admittedly undefense only for a most limited period of time. In contrast to recently defeated countries - such as Iraq - a pleasant alternative that existed as

lost war would mean the disappearthe status quo ante with its daily harassments and human casualties ance of Israel and thus for all practibut with Israel in unquestioned concal purposes the end of Judaism throughout the world. trol, would be vastly preferable to the seeming likelihood - God forbid Premier Peres's overtures toward the PLO completely disregard the - of the eventual results of the government's unrealistic expectations, PLO covenant's clear intent to wage a jihad. In his overtures toward Syreven though they are based on lofty moral considerations with Israel enia, Peres hetd out the possibility of visioned as a flag bearer leading to complete withdrawal from the Goparadisic conditions of supreme relan before Assad even condescended to allow preliminary talks and Vienna. EGON G. ROTHBLUM acted in day-to-day negotiations as

OVERKILL

Sir, - Your editorial of February 5, "The power of stupidity," is a textbook example of editorial overkill. Because Bar-Ilan University's New York office inadvertently used pictures of Yigal Amir in their dinner journal - an unfortunate error and obviously the result of some innocent in that office not knowing what Amir looked like - you use the following terms about Bar-Ilan: "stupidity" (twice), "imbecility,"
"sloppiness," "bumbling incompetence," "inanity," "ineptitude,"
"moral lapse," "cover-up,"

'whitewash." Come now. Is this not over-reaction on your part? Instead of using these perfectly fine adjectives on what was obviously a careless mistake (though admittedly it caused renewed heartache to us all), it would have been wiser to save them for more appropriate circumstances. For example, every one of these adjectives would apply perfectly to the so-called peace policies of this government. Why waste them on other matters?

Jerusalem. ESTELLE FELDMAN San Diego, California.

CORRECT' Sir, - 1 think that "the source

close to the Red Cross and the Palestinians" whn said (The Jerusalem Post, February 8) that the Swedish government should press the Palestinian Authority about its use of torture, just as it protests to Israel about the proposed GSS law, made a great

There is nn reason to believe that the Swedish government opposes torture when it considers it in be "politically correct." It is nnly "politically incorrect" torture that it opposes, and one can assume that it considers everything that Arafat does, including turture and other abuses of human rights, to be "po-litically currect." Incidentally, many of us, both on the left and the right, have the same attitude. ISRAEL SHAHAK

NATIONAL SHAME

Sir, - I read on February 4 of the imminent closing of the Atara Cafe in Jerusalem. This is a national shame. The Atara is a historic landmark of Israel. There are so few places which are a part of the current history of Israel that have not been demolished in the name of progress. Tearing down August Hut is almost heresy.

ILENE KLANG Tearing down Atara to put in a Pizza



Option that never really was

N HIS book Persunal Witness, Abba Eban, who as for-Leign minister held talks with King Hussein after the Six Day War, wrote: "I have always believed that the term 'Jordanian option' is one of the most unhappy semantic devices in the history of the Middle Eastern conflict. It nbscured the limitations of the Jordanian role under the competitive pressure of the Palestinian

Sbimon Peres very likely accepts Eban's opinion of the Jordanian uption having become outdated after 1970. Which is wby be went for the Palestinian option, as laid down in the Oslo agreement.

It was strange therefore to hear Peres say, when he opened the election campaign this week, that the peace treaty signed with Jordan has realized the Jordanian option advocated by Labor.

Peres knows this statement has nothing to do with reality.

The alternatives debated after the Six Day War weren't peace with Jordan or war with it. The whole establishment wanted peace with Hussein. Even Menachem Begin, who in the past had questioned the legitimacy of the kingdom of Jordan, on June 15, 1967 proposed a peace treaty with Hussein based on economic union of the two banks of the

The debate was over choosing the nature of the settlement in Judea and Samaria – between a direct settlement with the PalesMOSHE ZAK

tinians, and a settlement with Jordan over the areas previously under its rule.

Devotees of the Jordanian option assumed that Jordan, with its extensive territories, would be more willing to agree to a territorial compromise in Judea and Samaria; supporters of the alternative option claimed that an advantageous agreement with the Palestinians could be reached on the basis of Palestinian self-rule, that state and Jordan is a Palestinian, not Israeli, choice.

THE JORDANIAN option was meant to exclude the possibility of a Palestinian state.

But Peres's image and PR advisers assumed that the 'voters' intelligence and memory could be insulted, that Peres could congratulate himself on the consistency of his views, and that he could say, "We held firm to the

Image comes up against fact in election sloganeering

connected in economy and defense to Israel.

The Labor Party decided on the Jordanian option, on territorial compromise with Hussein in Judea and Samaria,

The peace treaty with Jordan, passed in the Knesset by an unprecedented majority of 105-3, is a good treaty; but it isn't synonymous with the Jordanian option. Peres is intelligent enough to realize that the Palestinian alternative he chose in Oslo surprised Hussein, failing to live up to his expectations from Israel.

peres is aware that his suggestion concerning a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation has nothing to do with the Jordanian option. It means Israeli acquiescence in the eventual establishment of a Jordanian option, and have achieved it."

It isn't only the Jordanian option that has vanished. Autonomy is also a chimera, and peace with the Palestinians is still to

The election campaign will feature many sound bites about "autonomy," "peace," and "Oslo," but the fact is that antonomy has disappeared, like the Jordanian option before it.

The precise term for the Palestinian entity in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza is an "interim self-governing authority." The Palestinians vetoed the term "autonomy," choosing to emphasize that what is at issue is a temporary arrangement for three years, at the end of which they will call for Palestinian state west of the Riv- the establishment of a Palestinian er Jordan. A future link between state with Jerusalem as its capital. comments on current affairs.

This is no mere semantics. The Palestinians haven't agreed to autonomy, only to the confused formulations of Oslo. They haven't agreed to peace, only to a temporary cease-fire.

In exchange for this cease-fire, which is likely to end as soon as negotiations on Jerusalem begin, Israel has agreed to allow the Palestinians to set up the infrastructure of their own state.

Nor does the cease-fire really exist. The terrorist threat from the areas under Palestinian Anthority jurisdiction has not disappeared. Even the PA's warnings to us of car-bombs about to be set off in Tel Aviv serve only to emphasize the ever-present threat to Israelis, who had hoped that the Oslo agreement would free them from the nightmares of the intifada.

Such Palestinian warnings, intentionally or unintentionally, assist the Palestinian institutions now organizing demonstrations against Israeli construction in the Jerusalem area. The terrorist option is a useful means to pressure Israel in the negotiations.

It was very easy for the Palestinian Police to leak the arrest of two Islamic Jihad members on their way to carry out a suicide attack in Jerusalem - about as easy as claiming that there were cellular phones in the time of King David, seeing that archeologists baven't found any ordinary telephone wires.

The writer, a veteran journalist

Ploys to make life difficult

Palestinian people lent their signature to will lead to the establishment of the independent Pslestinian state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. This state will be established on all Palestinian land occupied by Israel in-the war of 1967. Palestinian planners are working on building the political and economic structure of this state with this inevitable fact in mind.

They accepted the transition period and the phased implementation of the accords with Israel as a practical step necessary to lessen the century-lnng antagonism, hostility, and conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.

It is in this spirit that the Israeli people and government are asked to view Palestinian efforts to establish their economic and political infrastructure.

An example: The airport in Rafah and the Gaza port are essential projects for the Palestinian state, and therefure necessary for building peace between nur two peoples.

But continuing Israeli interference in this project and many others essential in the Palestinians is snnring relations between the sides at a time when the Palestinians are working relentlessty to build bridges between our people and Israel.

The Taba accord has been progressing smoothly - senior Israeli nfficials have testified to this fact especially as there appears to be continuous coordination between the two sides at all levels on essential matters like security. The machinery for solving disputes arising from the implementation of the accords is supposed to be in

However, Israel has been committing grass violations against Palestinian land, property, and people. Land is being confiscated for the purpose of building bypass rnads for settlers; settlements are being enlarged, Palestinian houses continue tn be demolished, trees are uprooted, and fertile land is damaged.

Palestinian Moslems and Christians from the West Bank WALID M. AWAD

and Gaza are probibited from reaching Arab East Jerusalem. They have been prevented from praying in its mosques and churches. Palestinian prisoners are not being freed - as a matter of fact more Palestinians are being arrested and jailed on a daily

AS OF the morning of February 12, Israeli occupation forces entality persists among the Israeli soldiers manning the checkpoints. Decisions concocted by the Israeli army to make life as difficult as possible for the Palestinians are being implemented once again. The confiscation of half of the main road connecting Jerusalem and Bethlehem to appease settlers testifies to this.

A wall has gone up on private Palestinian and Wakf land

Palestinians are feeling frustrated

cities of Ramallah, El-Birch and the surrounding areas. People woke up to find that they couldn't go to work, that their children were unable to reach their

People cannot see any reason fur the closure; nor do they know how long it will last; they feel completely hopeless. This is a very dangerous situation.

The same old occupation men-

and humiliated again furced a complete closure on the around Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. If, as I suspect, this is the

beginning of a settlement, it is absolutely against the agreements signed between the PLO and One of the reasons the intifada erupted in 1987 was as a reaction to the gamea that were being

played with ordinary people's lives. Today the same accumulation of frustration and humiliation is again being felt by the The bottom line should be un-

derstood by all concerned: The Oslo and Taba accords are not surrender documents for Israel to abuse and ignore. They are binding international agreements based on UN resolutions which explicitly and implicitly call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab land.

In its attempts to be reelected. the Israeli Labor/Meretz coalition government will my to have the Israeli electorate to its side.

lts recent actions - closing off the Palestinian territories, the expansion of Jewish settlements, its talk about excluding Jerusalem from the final-status talks, and its attempts to appear tough with the Palestinian Authority - are nothing but symptoms of the changing attitude wronght by the Israeli

This is harming the peace process. It may harm Labor's prospects for re-election.

The writer heads the Palestine Institute of Management in

POSTSCRIPTS

THE DEATH certificate and funeral papers were being prepared for a severely premature infant when something wonderful happened: He started breathing.

Chase Lear-Carter was fighting for life nn a ventilator, four days after the tiny boy, at just three hours old revived in his parents' arms after doctors had lost all hope.

"I think be's going to make it," said his father, Nicholas Carter, 21, of Dowagiac, Michigan, "He's a big fighter."

Chase was born weighing less than 0.9 kg and born 16 weeks premature. Hearing only a faint heartbeat and seeing that be wasn't breathing properly, the medical staff attempted to resuscitate him but the infant did not respond.

The family decided to hold him until be died.

There was nothing we could do except look at him and love him," Carter said, Then be gasped for air and

made a sound. Doctors don't

know why Chase had the urge to "Medical science can't explain everything," a bospital spokes-woman said. "We see a lot of

amazing things every day Chase's survival is the most AN ARGENTINE with no medical degree worked as a neurologist in a top hospital for 16 years,

chaired a specialist conference

and co-wrote a book on

medicine. Gnillermo Assanco was "a gab," said one doctor at the Rivadavia Hospital in Buenos Aires

where Assaneo worked from 1972 to 1988.

Assanco, 48, was charged with forgery, false exercise of a profes-Sion and causing serious injury after a woman told police she had suffered permanent brain damage in an operation be recommended

Former medical colleagues described Assanco as both "brilliant" and a "psychopath."

A 72-YEAR-OLD motorist was run over and killed after be stopped on a motorway to give first aid to a rabbit.

The man hit the rabbit on a highway north of Amsterdam. He pulled over and was walking back up the road to attend to the great seductor with the gift of the stricken animal when he was run over by a car coming from the opposite direction.

Wise for the next war

years ago, but the military and diplomatic lessons are still being analyzed.

Three fundamental lessons stand out:

• Wars can break out, even (or particularly) when least expected. Saddam Hussem's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 caught the US, Israel, Kuwait, and just about everyone else by surprise. Although Iraq's economic and political problems from the long war with Iran were well known, neither the CIA nor Israeli intelligence expected that Saddam would risk. war with the US by invading

As the crisis developed and the US prepared for war, no one expected that Iraq would be able to launch its "primitive" ballistic missiles against Israel, or that the US would fail to keep its pledge to destroy the lannchers on the first day of air attacks.

The war and the missile attacks were unexpected, demonstrating. again that uncertainty is the dominant factor in the Middle East. Nevertheless, many analysts continue to publish their predictions for the future of war and peace with confidence.

In a recent column, an Israeli defense correspondent criticized the IDF for still planning for a combined Arab military attack based on the scenarios of 1948 and 1973 (and prepared for 1967). He declared that in the wake of the peace process, Arab forces would never go through an autonomous or iodepeodeot Gaza. or West Bank to attack Israel. He explained how he had arrived at this conclusion, which seemed to be based primarily on wishful think-

There is no physical or political obstacle preventing a repeat of the events of 1948, and it is possible. that at some point, Palestinian leaders would welcome and assist an outside invasion, Radical Egyptian and Syriao governments, looking for a diversion from internal social and economic failures, could create the conditions.

GERALD M. STEINBERG

can and do develop suddenly, and armies move, trampling on the opinions of the sagest of experts. Opposing forces that are caught unprepared, such as Kuwait, do not survive to fight another day.

• Even in an age of missiles, the outcomes of wars are still determined on the ground, by tanks and armored vehicles, and the territory they occupy at the end of the

Many Israeli politicians, including Shimon Peres, are fond of claiming that in the missile age territory has lost its importance. This allows them to argue that the Golan Heights is no longer an important security asset for Israel. (When Peres recently asserted that

The basis of Israel's security remains flexibility, mobility, deterrence

hotels are more important than bunkers in the Golan, the head of the research division of military intelligence, Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, pointed out that hotels are less effective m stopping tanks.)

However, the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia neither lengthened nor shortened the war. Its outcome was determined by the air strikes mounted by the US and its allies, and by the ground attacks that captured Iraqi territory and trapped Saddam's Republican Guard.

Without the armored attacks, the war might have gone on for many more weeks or mooths, without a clear ending. (And had the US continued its ground attacks for another few days, both Saddam and the Republican Guard would have been destroyed.) Conventionally armed missiles

are a form of terrorism, and like

the more familiar forms, they can make life uncomfortable, but cannot occupy land or threaten the survival of states. The Gulf war The Iraqi case shows that if the military capabilities exist, crises showed that territory and ground

forces remain essential, even in the

• Deterrence and the threat of massive counterattack are still our most important sources of security and gnarantees of national survival.

We now know that Saddam had chemical and biological warheads for his Scud missiles, but despite his threats "to incinerate half of Israel," he did oot use these weapons. We also know that the Iraqis exercised restraint because they feared the massive Israeli response that was promised, that would bave done more damage in a few hours than six weeks of bombing, and would have destroyed Baghdad. The missile attacks were a form of terrorism, but Israeli deterrence prevented far more damaging attacks.

For the last few years, Egypt bas led a concerted campaign to force Israel to relinquish its deterrent capability. Yitzhak Rabin understood the centrality of deterrence. and firmly rejected any changes in this policy. However, other Israeli political leaders seem inclined in make coocessions in hopes of improving relations with Egypt and promoting the peace process.

The lessons of the Gulf war demonstrate that this would be a fatal mistake. As other states, including Iran, acquire nonconventional weapons and long-range missiles, the centrality of Israeli deterrence will increase.

Despite the missile attacks, this war did not threaten Israel's vital security interests. Above all, these events demonstrated that in an uncertaio world, where dictators command large armies, and agreements and borders are ignored, flexibility, mobility, and deterrence provide the foundations of Israel's security.

Since the circumstances of the next war cannot be predicted, the IDF should base its training and planning on effective use of technology and the ability to adjust to any scenario, and not on the strategic placement of hotels.

The writer is a senior research associate at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bur Ilan

A wrenching breach of faith

I boarded that last flight out of

Ethiopia, one of the happiest men on

earth. Today I am one of the saddest

was 16 years ald wheo I first stepped off an airplane onto Israeli soil.

l was fresh from Ethiopia. where I had beeo incarcerated under unspeakable conditions for the crime of helping fellow Jews escape from a despotic Communist regime to Israel. Certainly my own arrival on what I regarded as the sacred soil of my true homeland was the happiest day of my life, up to then.

There were even happier days ahead. I became the first Ethiopian accepted into the Israel Air Force, where I proudly served my country for years.

Professionally, I advanced beyond my wildest dreams. Growing a remote rural village in a mud hut, I didn't even see a telephone until 1 was 12. Some 20 years later, I am designing a successor to the current generation of

computer chips. For years 1 arranged the clandestine departure of thousands of Ethiopiao Jews: wheo my owo parents finally arrived in Israel my joy was overwhelming. lo 1991, i had the privilege of working on Operation Solomon, the miraculous airlift that brought 15,000 members of my community to 1srael in 36 hours. When I boarded the last flight out of Ethiopia, only hours before the airport fell to encircling forces, I must have been

the happiest man oo earth. Today I am surely one nf the saddest. It is hard to explaio to oon-Ethiopians why the revelatioo that Israeli officials have been dumping Ethiopian Jewish blood has caused us such great anguish, actually bringing us inm violent confrontatinn with Israeli police. This type of acovity is intally alien m our culture.

While we are actually not as unfailingly patient, gentle and lnngsuffering as people suppose, we do oot turn violently against those to whom we owe our educatinn, our homes, and eveo our lives. But recently we did just that. Why?

There was a breach of faith by elements of the Israeli gnvernment. Our blood was accepted, then secretly discarded. Ethiopian SOLOMON EZRA

pride goes very deep; you might say it is in our blood, the blood tha; we have learned sits in garbage cans all over Israel. It is as if we too have been discarded as garbage by the people we thought were our brothers and sisters. Fulfilled as we are to be at last

living as Jews in a Jewish land, conscious as we are of the lifethreateoing risks that Israeli and American Jews took to make our dream of Zioo a reality, grateful as we may be for the huge amount of mooey Israel has expended on our absorption, we still have serious problems that have received woefully inadequate attention.

These ioclude education remnant of our community still walting in Ethiopia, housing, jobs, army assignments, and the miser-

able locations of so many absorp-

WHY ARE Ethiopiao childreo

not getting the belp they need in

Israeli schools? The government

knows that the children come from

illiterate bomes where their par-

ents can't help with homework,

much less enrich the short school

day, make up for classes that are

too big, for ill-trained teachers, or

the frequent absence of books and

demnnstrate - that nur children

are smart, and want to learn. Pri-

vately fuoded mndel programs

such as those run by the North

American Conference on Ethiopi-

an Jewry prove that, given a

chance. Ethinpian children dn ex-

So wby is in that the government

doesn't provide the funding

(though they someomes promise

it) that could make such programs

available in all our children instead

tremely well in school.

nf only to a handful?

The leaders know - and studies

Now some of my frieods are woodering whether Israelis care if we become an underclass, the "hewers of wood and carriers of

And what about the members of our families still waiting in Ethiopia? There are more than 3,000 of them, living in appalling conditions of poverty, acute even by the standards of this impoverished African nation. Some are crippled, some are blind, many are old and

Community members observe Shabbat and kashrut, pray three times a day, wear kippot and tzitzit, and keep the laws of family purity. They have established a yeshiva which all the children attend, and built a synagogue. Recently a ritual bath was completed. In

How do Shimon Peres, Haim Ramon, and Yair Tzaban sleep at The government has failed to

expedite the reunification of our community, some of whose members have been laoguishing in squalor around the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa for over six years. Many members of the community have relatives serving in the IDF!

As tens of thousands of Russian Christians are made citizens of Israel, this religiously observant Jewish community is asked to satisfy Israeli government immigration restrictions that are not imposed on any other Jewish community in the world. The government's efforts to facilitate their emigratioo have been minimal.

The Interior Ministry and the Jewish Ageocy have devoted shamefully inadequate resources to processing the application of even those few community members eligible for immigration under the government's absurdly restric-, tive criteria. The only assistance comes from two American Jewish organizations, the North American Conference oo Ethiopian Jewry and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The 1sraeli government has not provided any help to this suffering Jewish community.

I will oot let myself believe that Israel doesn't want any more Ethiopian Jews. Israel is not a racist country, and our reception by the vast majority of Israelis has been almost embarrassingly warm.

However, the blood deception has badly shaken nur faith; we need in have the government demonstrate its good faith by immediate positive actinn.

The writer, an electrical engineer, is on the board of directors nf the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

What the market wants

THE public interest is the ALLAN E. SHAPIRO only interest in Israel to-A day that is not a vested interest. Public-interest issues will almost certainly be the non-issues in the coming election campaign. Sioyamin Netanyahu's computer for every child is a welcome technological update of Shimon Peres's car for every worker; but that is likely to be the end of it. Both pseudo-visions recall the lament of American historian Brooks Adams that "Things are in the saddle and rule mankind."

The end of ideology has made the very notion of a public interest suspect. On both the left and the right, it recalls the bad old days of government intervention m the economy. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir has told of her feeling of shame at the lack of interest in social policy in a Labor-led government, while Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur talks of its clinist orientation. Their criticism of Labor differs little from David Levy's strictures with regard to his erstwhile colleagues in the Likud.

The new norm is the market, not just as a mechanism for economic decision-making, but as a social ideal. It goes by different names in different areas. In education, it is called free choice. This is the rallying cry for the attack on integration.

In the media, it goes by the name of ratings, which have replaced standards, the out-of-fasbion public interest criteria nf. achievement. Standards beloog to the bad old days, when newspapers served their ideological masters, the political parties that owned and subsidized them. The senior personnel of both masscirculation dailies, currently under indictment, are certainly innocent of trying to propagate any particular message. Davar Rishon, the only daily that boasts an emphasis on social issues, narrowly missed being shut down today for lack of public support.

Having no place else to go, public ioterest issues pop up occasionally in High Court decisions, where they often don't belong, because they often transcend the limits of the law.

This would certainly have been the case if the High Court had, indeed, approved the building of the proposed Trans-Israel Highway, as was inaccurately claimed. law have in getting involved in more tie-ups. No one seriously these complex policy issues? In believes that the new toad will

fact, the court merely refused to enjoin further work on the project because of the absence of an environmental impact statement.

THE MARKET norm, as applied to the highway issue, takes the form of collective hedonism. The argument is that everyone wants to own a car and drive it where he pleases. This is the bottom line for the political decisionmakers. They want to avoid a traffic jam in the Knesset, where conflicting interests collide. They know they woo't avoid one in Tel Aviv.

The end of ideology has made the very notion of a public interest suspect

Heoce, there's oo point in looking at the public transportatioo alternatives, the argument goes. That's not what the market wants. A suburban rail network might serve the public interest, but it can wait. The public wants to get where it is going in the family car.

Planning a superhighway may, indeed, be a matter for experts, but that is not the issue here. This is not a question of where to pour concrete, but where in put people - where they will live and how they will make a living.

National Master Plan No. 31 sets forth a number of abjectives. They ioclude development of four metropolitan centers, population dispersal, conservation of agricultural land and open areas. Does the highway project further or hinder achievement of these objectives?

Los Angeles was once described by a visiting Israeli as the city of a thousand Afulas. Prof. Daniel Shimshoni, a social policy expert, asks if the highway won't turn the entire country into a Middle Eastern Los Angeles, but without the open hinterland of the American West.

Worst of all is the nightmare visioo of a nationwide traffic jam, as the collective hedonism of the private car comes to its ultimate climax. New roads, here as else-What business would a court of where, mean more traffic and

tioo's major metropolis, today's oumber ooe traosportation problem.

Decisions on road-building were more rational io earlier days. Oldtimers in Yavniel, the Lower Galilee Rothschild settlement founded in 1901, tell the story of the decision to pave the road from Yavniel to Tiberias. Baron de Rôthschild was coming to Tiberias, where he would receive the representatives of the cammuoity. What shauld they

Evening after evening, the argumeot raged: What project could best benefit Yavniel? The night before the meeting with the baroo, the argument continued until the break of dawn, to no avail. In the end, the decision was tn let the representatives who would meet with the baroo

The ride in Tiberias by horse and wagon took bours. The discussion cootinued the whole time. Tossed to and fro on the dirt track, after the preceding sleepless night, the delegation fi-nally arrived. When they met with the baron they had made their decision: They asked for a paved rnad from Yavniel to

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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short, they conduct themselves in

all respects as a religiously obser-

The National Religious Party

has appealed to Prime Minister

Peres to bring them to Israel im-

mediately since "they are without

doubt part of Israel and live as

vant Jewish community.

joratively refers to them as "Falash Mura" does not recognize them as Jewish and accepts as eligible for immigration under the Law of Return only a small segment of this intensely Zionist community.

What possible legitimate reason can the secular, supposedly more liberal Labor and Meretz cabinet members bave for this position?

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Scott Report on arms to Iraq clears UK ministers

LONDON (Reuter) - Britain said yesterday a three-year inquiry into arms sales to Iraq before the Gulf War had cleared ministers of conspiracy and had revealed no offi-cial cover-up.

Trade Secretary Ian Lang said the inquiry report showed ministers had not misled parliament.

It also concluded they had not

been prepared to let innocent men go to jail to hide a covert change in official guidelines covering arms sales to Baghdad in the mid-1980s. "There was no conspiracy.

told an angry session of ¬garliament.

Major set up the inquiry in November 1992 under judge Sir Richard Scott after the collapse df a court case against three execntives of an engineering firm, Matrix Churchill, accused of illegally selling arms to Saddam Hussein before the Gulf War.

Before the trial, ministers signed so-called public immunity certificates, or "gagging orders", Saying evidence requested by the accused had to be suppressed in the national interest.

But the trial judge ordered the release of the documents and a former minister told the trial that the government had tacitly supported such arms sales, causing the collapse of the case.

Aides said Major had complete confidence in Chief Secretary to

grave and Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lvell, the two most at risk from Scott's long-awaited report and they remain in government.

Lang said the report completely absolved and vindicated Waldegrave and Lyell.

Scott said guidelines banning lethal weapons sales to Iraq after the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988 had been eased. But Lang said Scott's report concluded Waldegrave had no "duplicitous intention" by not informing parliament.

Lyell ordered ministers before the Matrix Churchill trial to sign gagging orders". Lang said Scott believed Lyell's advice had been correct at the time and be had acted with complete

Lang attacked the Labor opposition for what he called "reckless and malicious" charges. Labor had called the Scott inquiry a "smoking howitzer" pointing at the heart of the Conservative

But opposition members of parliament immediately launched a ferocious attack on the government for distorting the report and called on Prime Minister John

Major to sack ministers.

This report weighs the standard of integrity in our government... and finds them wanting in the balance," said Labor foreign affairs spokesman Robin Cook.

London police explode suspected bomb

EONDON (Reuter) - Police exploded a suspected bomb in the heart of London's theatreland yesterday after receiving several threats less than a week after two people were killed in an IRA attack in the capital.

The suspected bomb, which police destroyed in a controlled explosion, was found in a telephone box, a Reuter photographer at the

scene said. Just hours before the Irish Republican Army had renewed an announcement that it had ended a 17-month-old peasefire in its guer-in spokeswoman said.

scaled off the prime tourist area in London's West End. People described scenes of chaos as they were left stranded in theatres, restaurants and cafes.

"It's complete mayhem here. We have been told by the police to stay inside the theatre," the stagedoorkeeper at a theatre said.

"A traffic warden told us they had found a bomb and it was for real," an eyewitness said, adding

the entire area was closed off. Police said they received several coded bomb warnings by telephone shortly after midday. They had not evacuated buildings but had warned people to stay away from windows.

Explosives officers made safe a device found in the Shaftesbury Avenue area. It has been submitted for forensic examination and searches of the area continue," a

inlla campaign to end Britishinde. She refused to confirm media in Northern Ireland.

H Traffic ground to a half as police. one pound (0.4 kilogram) of Semtex explosive. "It was a small de-

vice," she said. Police stepped up security in London after an IRA truck-bomb killed two people in the Docklands financial district. The bomb exploded last Friday shortly after the IRA issued a statement saying it was ending the ceasefire.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our mother and grandmother

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Basel/New York

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Mark and Lea Adjer Sammy and Beruriah Adler David and Ricki Adler and families

On Thursday, February 22, 1996, the 39th anniversary of the death of our dear father and grandfather. the journalist

ERNST ZVI LASZLO מ"ז

we will visit his grave at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem. Taxis will leave from Rehov Narkiss at 2:30 p.m.

The dedication of the tombstone for

BELLA KELMAN - FUCHS 🦡

will take place on Friday, February 23, 1996 (3 Adar 5756) at 11 a.m. at Har Hamenuhot (Har Tamir), Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The Family

The unveiling of the tombstone in loving memory of

DORON SADOWSKY

will be held on Monday, February 19, 1996 at 14.30, at the Ramat Hasharon Cemetery (Morasha junction)

> Jill, Alec and Tammy Sadowsky Michal and Ilan Daskal Tel. 03-5494743



Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures during a speech yesterday at Yekaterinburg, where he announced his decision to run for a second term.

Yeltsin, Zyuganov prepare for election clash

YEKATERINBURG (Reuter) -President Boris Yeltsin announced yesterday he would run for a second term in elections next June and said be was doing so to stave

off a threat of civil war in Russia. "My duty as the politician who launched reforms is to consolidate all bealthy forces and prevent shocks that could lead to a civil war," the Kremlin leader said in a speech launching his reelection campaign in Yekaterin-burg, his Urals home town.

Almost simultaneously, Com-munist leader Gennady Zyuganov was nominated by his party at a Moscow conference to be its candidate for the June 16 poll.

A further term of office by Yeltsin "would mean the destruction of our country", Zyuganov, a 51-year-old former college teacher, told reporters after accepting the nomination. He sneered at Yeltsin as a "weak

Although there are other strong candidates, including flamboyant ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, many com- the past five years.
mentators believe the June elec- He said it would be irresponsi-

tion will come down to a straight showdown between Yeltsin and Zyuganov.

Yeltsin was elected president of the vast Russian Federation in June 1991 and played a big role in ending Communist rule.

But his popularity has waned since then as reform policies have left millions in poverty and a bungled military campaign against rebels in Chechnya continues to cost Russian soldiers' lives.

Opinion polls show him trailing Zyuganov, who led the reborn Communist Party to a big success in December's parliamentary election. Communists now occupy more than one third of seats in the State Duma, the lower house

Yeltsin, speaking boarsely after campaigning on the streets of Yekaterinburg, told supporters that June 16 would not just decide who would be president. "What we will have to decide is

our future life and the fate of Russia," he said in an hour-long speech, defending his record of

ble not to continue his reforms. "I have to bring to a successful end the matter to which I have fully devoted myself. I am sure that I can bring the country through turmoil, worries and un-

certainty," he said.
Yeltsin's decision to run appeared to ignore two heart attacks last year, ascribed by his doctors to work and stress.

Apart from his croaky voice, he showed no sign of ill-health. He frequently diverted from his text to ram bome his message in a speech touching on some of the achievements of his presidency, and often smiled and joked with the audience.

He made clear that solving the 14-month-old conflict in Chechnya was uppermost in his mind. He repeated that various peace options were being studied but be ruled out as unacceptable both an immediate troop withdrawal and "scorched earth" tactics.

Before his speech, Yeltsin took a populist line in meetings with people on the streets of the city where be was once Communist

Rome summit crucial for Bosnia peace

ington called the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to a crisis summit in a bid to stop the Bosnian peace process unravelling but the hastily arranged meeting suffered a delay almost as quickly as it was announced.

The Rome talks were put back a day to tomorrow and

SARAJEVO (Reuter) - Wash- Sunday less than 24 bours after commitment of all parties to full their formal announcement.

> The meeting is to be chaired by the European Union, Russia and the United States and hosted by current EU president Italy.

The Guttfreund, Segev

and Lehrer Families

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said it was "agreed as a means to underscore the

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BEN ZUSSMAN > 7

will take place on Monday,

erev Rosh Hodesh Adar, 5756 (February, 19, 1996)

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The unveiling of the tombstone

in memory of

Dr. BERT GOLDSTEIN 5":

will take place on

Monday, February 19, 1996 (29 Shvat, 5756)

at 1:00 p.m. at the Sanhedria cemetery.

compliance" with the Washington-mediated peace accords reached at Dayton, Ohio, last November.

The conference has been called at a time when the Dayton deal, which ended Europe's worst conflict since World War Two, bas begun to fray badly over war crimes, prisoners and other issnes.

The Italian foreign ministry gave no immediate reason when it announced yesterday that the meeting would be delayed. A spokesman said that a start today bad been a target but never

definite. The United States hammered out the peace agreement between presidents Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Franjo Tudiman of Croatia and Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia during three weeks of intense "proximity talks" at an air force base in

Dayton, Ohio. This month, in what chief US negotiator Richard Holbrooke called the sternest test so far for the pact, tensions have run high in the southern Bosnia town of Mostar, divided between Bosnian Moslems and Croats, and between Bosnian Serbs and the NATO peace force following the extradition of two Bosnian Serb army officers to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Up to 60 killed in Kabul blast

KABUL (Reuter) - Up to 60 people were killed and many more injured by an ammunition dump blast in the presidential palace in the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday, the government

He said the afternoon blast at the palace, housing the defense ministry, was triggered by a fire in a faulty appliance that spread to an ammunition dump. Official Kabul Radio, moni-

tored in Islamabad, blamed carelessness for the explosion. Soldiers at the scene said the

blast could be a deliberate attempt to blow up the palace. But a government spokesman earlier ruled out a rebel attack as the cause of the explosion.

The opposition Taleban Islamic militia, seeking to topple President Burbanuddin Rabbani's government, has besieged Kabul since last October and has often fired rockets and artillery at government-held areas.

More rocks block way to bus in crushed tunnel

TOKYO (AP) - Rescuers could see part of the front of a bus smashed by a massive tunnel cavein five days ago, but teetening rocks above it were keeping them away. From the other end, they faced an estimated two more days of digging to reach 20 trapped

people.

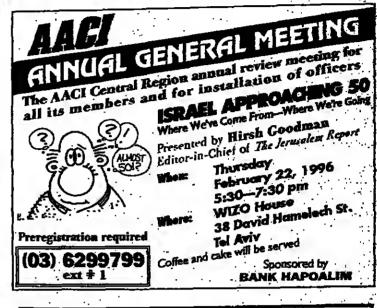
The new obstacles yesterday deflated hopes that the victims could be reached quickly after an explosion the previous day finally broke up the massive boulder that had crushed the tunnel last Saturday. The boulder, the size of a 20-story building, had withstood three previous explosions.

in a flurry of snow, power shovels worked through last night, clawing away at the mountainside outside a remote fishing village on the northern island of Hokkaido. Trucks carried away piles of rocks

Makoto Niiyama, an official with the rescue operation, told reporters that several large rocks threatening to toppic over were hampering efforts to reach the

Digging from the other end of the tunnel would take longer, likely through tomorrow, he said. Anxious relatives keeping wigit at the tunnel, about 880 kilometers north of Tokyo, fought back tears when they were told they would just have to wait some more.

The national newspaper Maini-chi reported the finding of one body, but police denied it. Rescuers had reported that a fiberscope inserted through the rubble Sunday showed a human arm, but there was no indication of that person's condition and no new discov ery yesterday, police said.



ON SUNDAY - OUTLOOK DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST



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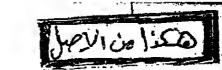
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NEWS IN FOCUS

Yesha Council misused US denations

Contributions meant for humanitarian needs on settlements were spent on political activities, Bill Hutman reports

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (Yesha) has diverted funds raised for humanitarian purposes from American Jews to use instead in its political activity, in violation of US tax laws, according to sources in the organization.

Former and present council officials interviewed during a threemonth investigation by The Jerusalem Post said this practice of diverting donations began four years ago when the council first started raising large sums abroad.

In all, hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax-deductible contributions ended up paying for political activities ranging from demonstra-tions to lobbying, according to the sources. This practice continues, the sources said, who also made serious allegations of waste.

Recently, several major US donors realized their contributions were not going to the humanitarian projects which the Yesha Council had promised and angrily cut their donations to the organization, the sources

"I have no doubt that much of the money mised in the US ends up going to demonstrations," said Marc Zell, an attorney who headed the council's fundraising campaign from

1990 to 1993. Zell recalled an incident in 1993 in which council director-general Uri Ariel suggested that the easiest way to divert money raised in the US would be by giving it to certain the money would return to the Yesha Council's coffers."

By giving the money first to the yeshivot, the council would be able to bypass US laws on the use of taxdeductible donations, Ariel allegedly told Zeil. The money would then be available for the political activity in which the Yesha Council is more interested, Ariel reportedly said.

Ariel denied Zell's account. "What Zell says is untrue," Ariel said, adding that "he never really worked for the Yesha Council." But Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, confirmed that Zeil had worked for the council, and that he had succeeded Zell in 1993 as the one responsible for raising funds in the

THE NEW York City-based One Israel Fund is officially a separate entity from the Yesha Council in order to comply with US tax regulations. But for most purposes they are the same organization. Leiter is also chairman of One Israel, and Ariel is head of its allocations committee.

One Israel boasts a list of over 8,000 regular donors. A handful of contributors each give the fund bundreds of thousands of dollars annual-

Ariel dismissed the allegations than US donations were going to political activity, and said it was unfair to base such charges on anonymous sources. "It simply is not true," Ariel said.

Leiter said, "There are people out there with an ax to grind, and the Yesha Council is a good target." "If someone wants to support polit-

ical activity they give directly to the



Settlement leaders' meeting two years ago: (From left) Uri Elizor, Yisrael Harel, Abaron Domb, Uri Arlel and Ron Nachman. (2014) Kill

Yesha Council," and in such case the donation is not a tax-deductible.

Leiter said. US law strictly forbids taxdeductible donations like those to One Israel from being used for political purposes, Jay Rotz, assistant director of the exempt organizations

division of the IRS, said.

Tax-deductible donations may go only to "charitable and educational activity," Rotz said, He declined, bowever, to comment on reports that have reached council officials in recent months that the IRS is investigating the organization.

The council, through its foreign desk, which is responsible for coordi-

reports since 1992.

Greenberger said.

nating fund-raising, has told donors in the US that their tax-deductible contributions are going only to humanitarian projects, in accordance with US law. This is not, however, the case, the sources said.

"The foreign desk works closely with communities and individual philanthropists around the world to

the sources say.

ensure that the Yesha Council's Jewish communities are not deprived of the supplementary humanitarian funding they so desperately need," a report issued to major donors states. The report is for April 1993

through April 1994, but was issued just last year.
A careful look shows that at least in one case, the contributions did not go where promised. The first item in the report, under the title "Humanitarian Allocations", earmarked \$535,000 for ambulances. The most expensive model, a mobile intensivecare unit, is listed as having gone to Kirvet Arba. A visit to the community, however, shows no such unit there. Community officials also confirmed that they received no new MICU unit from the council.

Leiter at first insisted the new unit was in Kiryat Arba. He later said there might have been a mix-up and the new unit been put in another community, although he could not identify which.

FORMER AND present Yesha Council officials said the organization's books are a mess. "No ode keeps track of how much money is raised, where the money goes, and bow it is used," says one former official, who asked to remain anony-

'T'm not sure it will ever be possible to trace the money raised in the US, because the books are mixed up so badly," the official said. "There was simply no accountability. We would raise money in the US, but

never see the money in Israel." "Checks were being diverted from the humanitarian purposes for which they were intended to all sorts of administrative and political activity." another former official said.

Most former and present council members refused to speak on the record about the group's finances fearing they would hurt the council during the run-up to the Knesset election, despite their outrage over how the finances were being han-

Zell was one of the major exceptions. His reason for going public is that he now heads a rival fund-raising group, the Israel Community (Continued on Page 14)

require that financial reports be presented to an

organization's general assembly before they

are filed. The council hasn't had a general

assembly meeting since 1993, and instead has

Director-general Uri Ariel said he knew noth-

ing about the council's failure to file financial

reports with the registrar, and that to the best of

his knowledge this had been done. He promised

but was unable to provide proof that the reports

been run by an all-powerful executive.

· were filed with the registrar.

Old guard resists push for reform

HE Yesha Council has not held elections for over a decade despite frequent calls for elections and a formal decision three years ago that a ballot be held.

Council critics, such as grass-roots sendement leaders Moshe Feiglin of 30 Artzenu and Nadia Matar of Women in Green, are quick to point out that the council, founded in 1979. is often mistaken as being similar to . the democratically elected regional

This is not the case. The Yesha Council was founded by a core of Gush Emunim activists to push for the development of settlements and lobby the government. The council has not held elections since 1985, and this, according to the critics, is the root of many of the organization's

Criticism of the Yesha Council traditionally centers on the council no longer representing the Jewish community in the territories. Said Feiglin. "I never expected a lot out of the Yesha Council."

4,

Mater called for the council to "be more open. They have been in the field for many years, and now must be open to the new generation" of activists like herself and Feiglin, she

But the old-guard council leaders have not only lost touch with the people they are supposed to serve, according to the critics. A core of executive members and a handful of appointed officials not only make the council's political decisions, but they also make the financial ones, all in the name of the 140,000 Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The leaders who wield power at the council include "elected" executive members Binyamin Regional Council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, and Kiryat Arba Local Council chairman Zvi Katzover. There are also "permanent" executive members former MK Elyakım Ha'etzni, former Nekuda editor Yisrael Harel, former MK and Kiryat Arbu resident Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, executive director of the council's Amana settlement wing Ze'ev Hever, and Ofra rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun.

They are joined by the three hired professionals: spokesman Aharon Domb, Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, and director-general Uri Ariel.

.This core of permanent executive members and hired professionals controls the purse-strings at the Yesha Council. Besides controlling the council's purse-strings, the core group also holds those of two lesserknown posprofit organizations that collect donations for the settlement movement the Fund for the Development of the Zionist Idea, and the United Israel Fund. The same crew controls all foreign donations to the Yesha Council.

Jordan Valley Regional Council bead David Levy said for the first two years after taking office in 1990 be was active in the council. "I quickly learned that [the council] was a group of four or five figures who were mak-ing all the decisions themselves, (Continued on Page 14)-

THE Yesha Council faces legal action by

the registrar of nonprofit organizations

because of its failure to file financial

The registrar, Benzion Greenberger, said,

"We have several options. We can erase the

association's name from the registry, or simply

dissolve it." This would get the council in trou-ble with Israeli tax authorities because of the

tax breaks it has enjoyed as a nonprofit group.



The council's unkept books

The Yesha Council has been registered as a nonprofit organization since 1990. By law, it is

supposed to file financial reports with the reg-

istrar annually. Its latest report was for 1992,

Council sources attributed the delays to the

fact that the organization's finances are a mess.

Last year, the council began to piece together

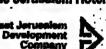
They also said that registrar's regulations

its books, but there is still a long way to go,"

filed with the registrar only last year.

in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, together with the Association for Promoting Tourism in Israel, the Jerusalem Development Authority, the East Jerusalem Development Company and the Jerusalem Hotel Association





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Speakers:

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Guest Speaker: Benny Gaon, Managing Director of Koor Industries Ltd. Moderator: Gad Lior, Head of the Jerusalem Bureau, Yediot Aharonot

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AN INGATHERING OF JEWS ATTRACTED BY WHAT

ISRAEL HAS TO OFFER







Haredi voters do as their rabbis say

or the haredi voter, the question of which ballot to east for the prime minister could have less to do with issues such as territorial concessions and the future of the Golan and more to do with the mysocal teachings of the Zohar about the ascendency of right over left.

Fhat is the view of Arye Frenkel, a public relations adviser who is himself, a member of the haredi community as well as an expert on haredi olitics. Frenkel also says he believes that Binyamin Netanyahu's admission to having had an extramarital affair helped the Likud leader rather than harmed him

In any case, Frenkel explains, the question is less whom the haredi voter wants than whom the rabbis, the great Torah sages, will back. In theory, at least, the haredi voters do as their rabbis say.

This outlook is summed up very succinctly by the Agudat Yisrael daily, Hamodia, in a report on the unification of the Likud and Tsomet last week. There was no reaction from the haredi parties, the paper

said, since the rabhis had not ye made their views known.

The haredi parties did not react to the unification since the haredi public will act as the great sages tell them and no political act, or any advice by political advisors, will help the candi-

dates," the paper said.

Prof. Menachem Friedman, the Bar-Ilan University sociologist who regarded as one of the leading experts on the haredi community, says he feels that it is incombent on the leading rabbis to declare support for a candidate; their position of leadership demands it, but he does not believe that they will be able to agree

The haredi rabbinical leadership is more divided than ever, he says, and even the Aguda Council of Sages, which has managed to remain intact far longer than the councils of the other parties, is now in disarray.

In addition, Frenkel points out, the direct election of the prime minister, when voters will have to choose between secular candidates to head the stare, is problematic. In theory,

As rabbis struggle over which candidate to endorse in the elections, some suggest voters just consult the Zohar, Haim Shapiro writes

the haredi public stays away from "Zionist" politics. No one from either Aguda or Degel Hatorah has ever agreed to serve as a minister, even though they have in effect run some

In the past, the rabbis could tell the voters that it was their sacred duty to vote for Aguda or Degel, that the voters could take time off from the study of Torah to cast their votes for the religious parties. The easiest thing the rabbis could do from a religious point of view. Frenkel says, is to tell their followers to vote for the Knesset and

cast a blank ballot for prime minister. The problem with that, however, is that the nation is almost equally divided and the haredi votes could easily be the deciding factor. In fact, Frenkel adds, a call to abstain would

be a vote for Peres, since the haredi public tends to support Netanyahu. On the face of it, this seems unlikebecause of the incident in June 1993 when Netanyahu announced on television that he was being hlackmailed with a videocassette of his affair. Adultery is a serious offense, prohibited in the Ten Commandments However, Frenkel says, it would be far more difficult for the rabhis to support a religious Jew to be prime minister than an

This, Frenkel explains, is because of the view of the inherent illegitimacy of the Zionist movement "It is actually better if a moral person is not the head of the Zionist

establishment. The [video] tape does-

ON THE other hand, Frenkel says, Peres has great support among the haredi political leadership and some rabbis, who see a direct line of support for the deferment of yeshiva stu-dents and the army exemption of religious girls running from Ben-Garion to Dayan and finally to Peres. In addition, Frenkel says, when Peres was finance minister he was particu-larly generous to haredi institutions.

Finally, the alliance between the Likud and the "antireligious" Tsomet makes it just that much harder for Netanyahu to woo the haredim, Frenkel says.

Friedman, however, sees the tarring of the Labor government with the brush of Meretz as far more crucial. The presence of Meretz in the seem antireligious, Friedman says, and the haredin believe, with some justification, that a Liknd government would be more sympatt

"The Likud wouldn't send some-one like [MK] Dedi Zucker to be chairman of the [Knesset] Law Committee." Friedman says.

This feeling was very evident in a commentary on the Likud-Tsomet alliance which appeared last week in Yated Ne eman, the Degel daily, where every time the writer, Alef Yitzhaki, mentioned Tsomet, he also mentioned Meretz. Indeed, Tsomet was only criticized as the right-wing twin of Meretz and the writer came to the conclusion that Eitan would have to drop his actireligious platform.

"It will be a gain for the religious that Meretz will be the only party with antireligious propaganda in the

next elections," the writer concluded.

All this, however, is based on the assumption that the rabbis make their, decisions on the basis of religious or both Frenkel and Friedman note, pub-

able force. If the haredi public wants one candidate, then the rabbis won't go for the other one, Frenkel says. Moneover, both agree that the rab-bis will not proclaim their support for a candidate who appears destined to

lose the election. "The rabbis won't back a loser. If the polls are for Peres, they won't support Bibi." Frenkel says.

Friedman says he believes that in their heart of hearts, the rabbis support Netanyahu, but that they will not support him publicly as long as Peres is leading in the polls. The rabbis. bave a history of remaining in the

market, he says.

They would prefer to decide without the press, or Peres, knowing. about their decision." Friedman says However, Frenkel says, if there is no clear rabbinical directive, the haredi vote will go to Netanyahu, not because the voters prefer his platform, but because of the kabbalistic,

Now you see them all the time...now you don't

f Shimon Peres and Hafez Assad were to reach an agreement before the elections, the Israeli public might not be able to watch the historic handshake and signing ceremony on its own tele-

A clause in a law being challenged by the ruling coalition hans the appearance of MKs and Knesset candidates on national television for the 30 days before

The coalition is trying to lift the estriction in an amendmen scheduled to come up for first reading in the plenum on Monday. Opposition MKs are pushing to retain it, at least until the year

MK Haggai Merom, who initiated the amendment this time, says: "It's anachronistic. When Egyptian president Anwar Sadat met prime minister Menachem Begin on the eve of the 1981 elections, although televi-sion viewers could see Sadat, they were only shown pictures of Begin's shoes because of the ban."

That was not the only occasion footwear footage was shown. During the funeral of MK Micha Reisser, killed in a car crash on the eve of the 1988 elections, the candidates' faces were not shown. even when they

In 1992, theo-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir was edited out of

Just when election fever reaches its peak, politicians disappear from the TV screen due to a controversial law, Liat Collins reports

visit here. And one of the strangest oft-cited incidents springing from the law was the ban on broadcasting a football match in 1988 until Hapoel Tel Aviv player Moshe Sinai removed himself from the bottom of Labor Party list.

The situation is absurd, particularly when Israeli viewers are coverage of Mikhail Gorbachev's exposed to the news from other

foreign sources and in an age of direct elections for the prime minister," Merom says. "The opposi-tion fears politicization and says without the ban, the government will exploit the broadcast outlets. But I think tournalists can be trusted, and [I] give them credit that they will prevent any gross

violatioo. "Such a law is not suitable in the

age of multi-channels. There can be no doubt that viewers will simply get the news through CNN and NBC instead. In the age of

news, things can't be kept from

the public. MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) prepared a bill to amend the law in 1993, but after passing preliminary reading, it has lain buried in the Knesset's Law Committee for more than two years. Zandberg says he still favors lifting the ban, but, mindful of the serious objections of his opposition partners, particularly those on the joint

Likud-Tsomet list, he is cautious. "I'm meeting with Tsomet MKs Monday morning before the vote and I want to hear the opinions of both sides before deciding what to do," he says.

Although he does not intend to take his name off the bill, he might absent himself from the

Like other MKs from both sides of the political arena, Zandberg ootes that in the age of cable, one can watch Sky and CNN, but there they will always interview the most senior people, whereas the smaller politicians not in the Cabinet's ranks can get exposure only oo Israel national

MK Dan Tichon (Likud) says even getting air time locally is extremely difficult for opposition MKs. Two weeks ago, he spoke out in favor of rescinding the ban, saying: "The law was good in its time, when there was only one station and the ruling power always exploited it in its own favor. Now the skies are open and satellites bring us anything and everything and therefore I believe the law is outdated."

But, this week, he changed his mind. Tichoo says "recent experience" and not party discipline on the issue is responsible for his change of heart.
"Life has since taught me that

what I said about lifting the ban is no longer applicable and repealing the law would be worse," he

"Since the elections were brought forward, the [broadcast situation has worsened considerably, it is now extremely this ficult for opposition MKs to get air time, even on subjects they are closely connected with.

"For example, although I have been warning about and following the affair of banks overcharging for 10 years, I was unable to get time to speak on television. I heard my name quoted, but I was oot allowed to say anything.

The current situation is terri-hle. We [the opposition] are not even given the chance to respond to accusations leveled against us on the air.

"I'm in favor of changing the law now, as long as the change would come into effect for the elections in the year 2000 and not immediately. We can't change the law for these elections. We're oot suckers and we woo't commit political suicide."

MK Limor Livnat, in charge of the Likud's electoral campaign, is also lobbying to keep the prohibition, at least until after the upcoming elections.

The coalition and opposition are offered completely unequal air time," she says. "The weekly review by [Ma'ariv's] Meir Schnitzer shows that the television appearances by coalitido members compared to opposition MKs is completely biased

With the exception perhaps of Bibi [Likud leader Binyamin] Netanyahu] and Raful [Isomet leader Rafael Eitan] when they signed the joint list agreement last week, the exposure is out of all proportioo to the strength and size of the opposition in the Knesset. Canceling such a bill would be harmful and could only help the government without benefiting the opposition."

FIGURES FOR January showed that Peres appeared on television 34 times compared to 23 appearances by Netanyahu. Channel 1 showed Peres 14 times and Netanyahu 11 times; on Channel 2, the numbers were 20-for Peres and 12 for Netanyahu. "There will always be distor-

tions," admits Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni (Meretz), "but they won't be as great as those that spring from this law." MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) is

"The law is a farce," he says. He notes that not only are the cables stations and radio stations? free of the ban, but that the prince of ed bress has no limits on prefelector tion poverage either.

Poraz is fighting a separate battle concerning election propagan-da. The head of the Knesset subcommittee on the Second Channel and Radio Authority, he favors maintaining a ban on Channel 2 on showing party political broadcasts. He says such broadcasts will send viewers to foreign cable. stations and incur losses for the Channel 2 franchise holders He was outvoted by his committee members, who supported the party broadcasts on both channels. It is oot only the MKs and candidates who cannot agree on the electoral propaganda issue. Media folk can be found to support either:

Israel Television producer Aharon Goldfinger, responsible. for Popolitika, said on a recent: Channel 1 program, "The media is . supervised and monitored coough to decide what kind of doses and exposure each [politician] gets."

Yediat Aharonot journalist: Amos Carmel, on the other hand, told Israel Radio that he disputes the basic premise that the media. will monitor and censor themseives. He also noted recent lack of equality in air ome and even objected to the classic example of the Begin-Sadat meeting, frequently given by the ban's oppo-

The Begin-Sadat meeting itself was not free of a political taiot." he charged. Similarly, should Peres and Assad actually meet on the eye of the election; the historic event would not be free of elec-

"Less damage is caused by viewers watching CNN than the damage that could result from lifting the current limits," Carmel said. And Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi has his own reasons for

supporting the restrictions.
"It's a just law if gives equal exposure to all candidates. Any law promoting equality between different people and bodies is a positive thing. In any case, I'm very discriminated against by the media and I want to put those who receive extra coverage into the same situation that I'm in.

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The Nautilus laser: Aiming into the future

Between Arrow and Nautilus, US-Israeli antimissile research is moving forward, Steve Rodan reports

NE by one, Prime Minister Shimon Peres listed this week what he said were the accomplishments of the Labor government. Then, speaking to the coalition's Knesset caucus, he referred to the

military. "The IDF will remain a strong and modern army." Peres said. "I warn those who fire Katyushas that soon we will have weapons against Katyushas and against

Israel is entering an intensive stage of development of antimissile defense systems that will encompass a variety of means of shooting down enemy rockets. Some of the programs are in their infancy; some are arriving at the stage where production is being

Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry says Israel's current efforts to build a shield against missiles was one of the chief lessons of the Gulf war. The Arab states, particularly Syria, watched Iraq rain Scud B missiles on Israel without any diffi-

It gave a lot of countries in the Middle East the feeling that this is the type of solution they can use to compensate for their lack of air

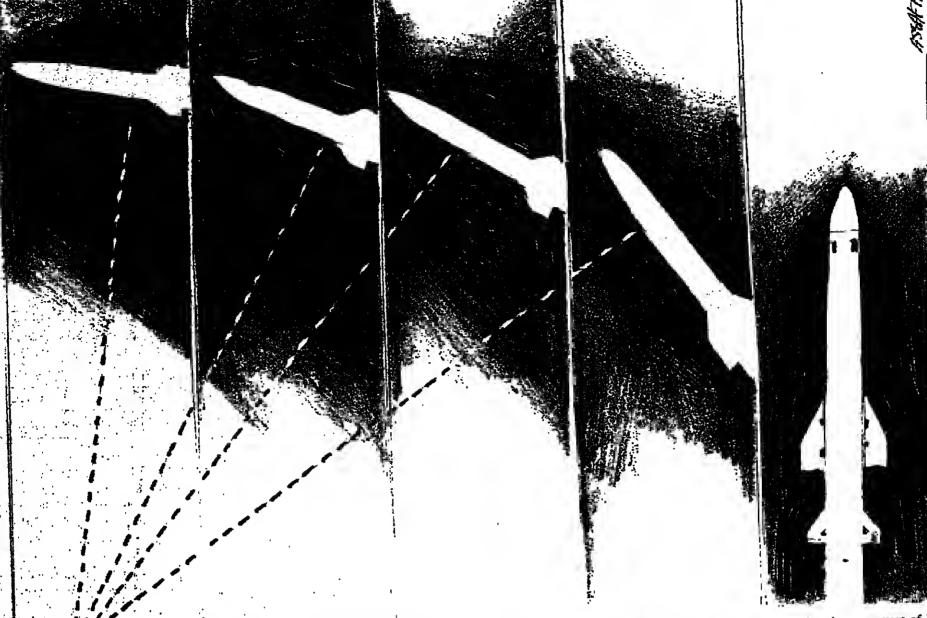
power," Ivry says.
Israel's known antimissile defense programs have one thing in common: they are being developed with US funds and technical help and therefore come under Washington's control. The main effort is the Arnow pragram; begun in 1986 with the development of an experimental missile. designed to intercept and destroy an incoming enemy missile. Last year, the Arrow II, meant to be the operational missile; was launched in what was called a successful

The Arrow II. smaller and lighter than its predecessor, will be tested again, defense sources say. As with its first test, the forthcoming launch will be kept simple. It will not attempt to intercept

an incoming missile. Instead, Ivry says, Arrow II will be tested for what he calls its feasibility and reliability. In other words, whether all of its systems, except for its interception capabil-

ities, work Arrow II differs from the first missile in that Israel is putting up most of the money. The five-year program calls for Israel to fund 60 percent of the \$500 million pro-

Ivry says part of the funding is to give Arrow the ability to integrate into other antimissile defense systems. The US, for example, is developing the THAAD (Theater High Altitude



Area Defense) missile which, unlike the Arrow, is meant to strike the warhead of the incoming missile. The Arrow's goal is to move in close and shower shrapnel to destroy the enemy missile's

The US is also helping fund an Israeli project to develop the rest of the antimissile system. This includes the radars and fire control needed to spot an incoming missile and target it for intercep-

Ivry says two radars are being developed for the Arrow, one of which will be used in the next test. If the forthcoming test is successful, he says, then the following demonstration will seek to intercept an incoming missile.

Defense sources say the hoping that by 1998 Israel will deploy its first Arrow system, which will be comprised of the missile batteries and launchers, the early-warning radar to detect enemy launches, and a fire control center to track the flight of the enemy missile.

Ivry, however, is more vague. There is an expectation that within two years we'll have capability," he says without elaborat-ing. "I can say that a year from now we'll have more capability than we have today. And in two

years, we'll have even more." The final cost of Arrow still remains in dispute. A Defense Ministry estimate prices the package of development and deployment at \$1.5 billion. Critics in the US and Israel say a system that aims to protect Israel's population centers from missile attack will cost at least three times that.

But defense officials agree that Arrow will not be the only system

in operation. Israel plans to establish a multi-layered system that aims to destroy enemy missiles in

their initial flight period.

The concept is called Boost Phase Intercept and the US and Israel are quietly determining the feasibility of using Unmanned

The Arrow's goal is to move in close and shower shrapnel to Odestroy the € enemy missile's warhead

Aerial Vehicles to scout enemy territory where missile launchers are suspected of operating. A satellite or airborne radar would spot a launch and direct the UAV to fire its missile and destroy the enemy's rocket.

The US Congress has allocated up to \$15 million for research on BPI and Israeb officials say it will take another year to determine whether the concept should enter the development stage.

BOTH THE Arrow and BPI could be affected by yet another program being developed by Israel and the US. This is the Nautilus, which, with a \$5 million budget in 1996, is the smallest of the antimissile defense programs. Israel contributes \$900,000 to the pro-

Nautilus, a survivor of the Strategic Defense Initiative of the mid-80s, aims to evaluate lasers as a tactical air defense system

against rockets, mortars, and unmanned air reconnaissance vehicles. In a test last Friday, the Nautilus laser, termed MIRACL directed its beam at an Israeli-supplied Katyusha rocket, exploding it in fligbt.

For US and Israeli officials, the laser's success proved the feasi-bility of being able to destroy a short-range rocket at a far cheaper cost than other anti-missile projects, whereby a missile is launched to intercept and destroy an enemy missile. They said they will now test the laser against artillery shells, which are slowers and smaller than rockets.

US Army officials, responsible for the Pentagon's end of the program, said the Nautilus technology could be used against ballistic missiles as well. Already, severa US defense contractors are developing an airborne laser that, from above the atmosphere, could destroy a ballistic missile in the initial launch period.

senior Gerald Steinberg, Bar-Ilan at researcher University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and an author of a book on antimissile defense, says Nautilus could end up refuting criticism that an annimissile defense system is too

With a laser, you can make many shots and you can aim extremely accurately," Steinberg says. "With a laser, you can aim within a few centimeters. And, if you're talking about a range of a few hundred meters and laser moves at the speed of light, you can adjust your aim very quickly."

Steinberg, echoing the assessment of Israeli defense officials. says the biggest problem will be

to quickly track short-range rockets hurtling toward Israel and directing the lasers quickly enough so that the enemy's salvo can be destroyed. But he says that lasers are flexible enough to shoot two or three targets within sec-

"The lasers don't have a reload-The Nautilus test proved it could destroy a short-range rocket

far cheaper cost? than other antimissile projects

ing problem," he says. "Lasers, like a Dick Tracy cartoon, can shoot in two or three different directions. Changing the direction is very simple because you're using mirrors. It has its limits, but it is less limited than a missile-firing system."

Steinberg suggests that the suc-cess of Nautilus should push Israel to follow the US's lead and explore using lasers rather than missiles as a means to destroy enemy rockets.

Not everyhody agrees that lasers are the best solution. James Hackett, a leading US missile expert for the San Diego-based Titan Systems, says the technical challenges of any laser system are formidable.

Don't forget them

Echoing the assessment of US officials in the US Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, which is sponsoring the Arrow program, Hackett says he doubts whether the laser can work under battlefield conditions, where smoke, rain, or dust would binder the beam and dissipate in the

atmosphere. Moving from a controlled test to a battlefield environment is a considerable challenge," Hackett says, "and assumes that many remaining problems can be solved. Given the difficulties, the US has abandoned most of its research into the use of laser weapons within the atmosphere."

Hackett says Nautilus has been bouncing throughout the Pentagon bureaucracy for the last decade. The MIRACL, which stands for Mid-Infrared Adva Chemical Laser, was built by the US Navy during the Cold War. The navy proposed closing the facility after finding that missiles and high-speed guns can protect

naval vessels from low-flying. cruise missiles.

Instead the US Army took over MIRACL and its \$30 million annual budget and now it, too, has not designated funds to continue the project. Indeed, Nautilus only has enough money to operate until the end of September and the Defense Department has not even asked Congress to continue fund-

We're hoping that Congress will come up with the money by itself," a US Army official says. "In nine months, we've managed to shoot down a rocket. That should speak for itself."

ISRAELI OFFICIALS have shrugged off the debate over the Nautilus. As they see it, the program presents another option for Israel in its development of missile defense.

But privately, they acknowledge that Israel's dependence on the US for these programs has its drawbacks. First, the US has full control of all technology developed in Arrow. Second, Washington can and has vetoed the requests of other friendly countries, such as Korea, to participate in Arrow and defray eventual Israeli costs in deploying the

Reconnaissance is another area where US control has hampered Israel's freedom. Some defense sources see Israel's Ofek satellite program as a way to ensure the country's ability to survey enemy territory and provide response time to any missile

The US has expressed displea-sure with Ofek, suggesting that it could escalate tensions with Israel's neighbors. Last week in London, senior defense officials, including Ivry, met with CIA chief John Deutsch about using Israeli and US satellites in the Middle

There was a discussion but no ... resolution of the subject," a.

defense official says. But Israeli officials add that so far. American pique has not affected their partnersbip in antimissile defense. They say after another test of Nautilus, Israel and the US will develop a prototype of the laser system – if funding is available – which will hadred to the same of the system o include ground-station radar, lasers, and fire-control systems.

At this point, lvry sees Nautilus' as being very different from the Arrow, bis focus for the next few years. But the development of Naufilus, he adds, could result in using lasers rather than missiles as an option in destroying enemy ballistic missiles.

Steinberg agrees that for now Israel bas plenty of options and need not make any choices.

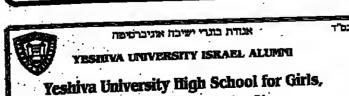
"We're not anywhere near the. point where Israel has to decide which system is the most suitable," Steinberg says.

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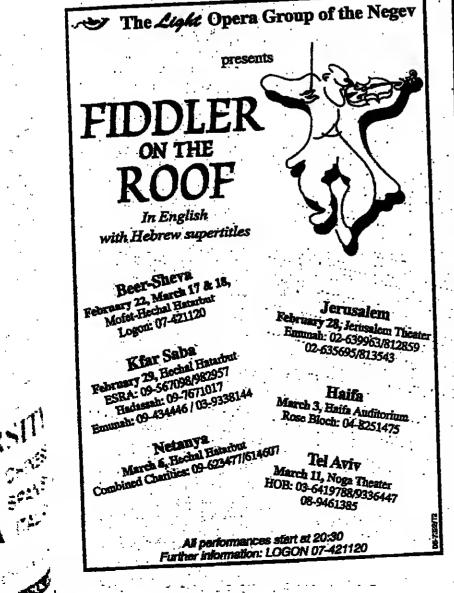
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British make dramatic about-turn over library

Ten days ago the British Council announced its closure in west Jerusalem. Now they say it was all a 'misunderstanding,' Tom Gross reports

announcement on Wednesday that the British Council (BC) library in west Jerusalem was, after all, to remain open was greeted with shouts of joy and enormous sighs of relief by anxious members pre-viously in despair at the thought of its imminent closure.

But the official British Foreign

Office line that the original decision to close had all been nothing but a mere "misunderstanding was greeted with ridicule by those who believed political motivations lay behind the move.

There bad been nothing ambiguous about the statement headed "Closure" which was released just one week earlier, on February 6, and handed out to members. The director of the Tel Aviv head office, Harley Brookes, wrote be "very much [regretted] to give the sad news that, owing to the very serious financial cuts that bave been imposed on us from London, the British Council library in Jerusalem will cease to function from March 4th, 1996."

Expressions of profound disappointment followed this statement. Member Natasha Lehrer, a CD-Rom producer, summed up the feelings of many, "I'm devastated," she said. But feelings of despair quickly turned to anger. as sbocked members telephoned

each other to discuss the news. While it was true that harsh worldwide financial cuts - representing 17 percent of its annual hudget - had been imposed on the BC from London, that the offices and libraries in Nazareth, Nablus, Gaza and - most significantly in east Jerusalem, would not, it seemed, be closing, led many to

conclude that not only financial hut also political motivations lay behind the decision.

One distraught reader said out loud in the library, "I think it's an anti-Jewish move," and a staff member nodded in agreement.

These suspicions were further fueled by the seeming suddenness of the decision (a library staff member said it came as a "bolt from the blue") and the fact it would be sbutting down outright, without exploring other ways of saving money or finding alternative sources of income.

If Israel's capital is a highly sensitive political and diplomntic issue at the best of times, it will be especially so in the coming months. The British decision is in marked contrast to the decision of the American Cultural Center, which, baving had federal budget cuts imposed on them, last December closed their Tel Aviv but not their Jerusalem branch.

Questions were also raised as to wby the BC's third branch within the Green Line was located in Nazareth, home to a large Arab population, rather than in other larger towns such as Beersheba or

The decision certainly "smells bad," said one prominent Britishborn Israeli. "At a time wben British relations toward Israel are meant to be warming, people are asking if this is how we are to be rewarded for a peace process that has made us feel more and more

That the hranch in east Jerusalem is in fact run under a separate organizational and hudgetary structure, not connected to Tel Aviv, and the Nazareth office



A visitor browses at the British Council Library. Over 50 percent of its members are native Hebrew speakers.

information center, without a library, did nothing to allay suspicions and diminish the vehemence of the ensuing protests.

The British government was clearly stunned by the outpouring of protest that followed, which went well beyond Jerusalem's British and anglophile communities. The faxes went flying, not just to Brookes and British Ambassador David Manning, but to BC director-general Sir John Hanson in London, and to MPs from Liskeard. Cornwall, to Liverpool. The story was even mentioned on Sky News.

In Britain, questions were raised on the floor of the House of Commons. Labor MP Greville Janner, a well-known advocate for Israel, called the decision "mean inappropriate." Unionist MP the Rev. Martin Smyth also protested the decision in the Commons and complaints Then, last Wednesday, a new

were made by members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Many people here phoned and wrote to The Jerusalem Post all lamenting the closure. Seldom can such expressions of emotion and howls of protest been evoked over the closure of what is, relatively speaking, a smallisb foreign-language library located in on a quiet. leafy street in the capital's Baka neighborhood.

On February 8, two days after

ment was handed out, saying that no decision had yet been made and "the information conveyed" in the previous statement had been based on a "misunderstanding."

business as usual. The library would remain open for at least another year and no cuts would be made for the time being. Brookes had little choice but to

statement was issued. It was to be

toe the line. "I completely deny any political element in the decision. It's all been a misunderstanding," he told the Post. But sucb diplomatic doublespeak fooled few.

The BC, the cultural arm of the

many as a very effective arm of national propaganda, for what is, all said and done, a relatively, low budget. It tends to create sympathetic feelings toward Britain, resulting in all sorts of positive economic and cultural benefits which are cost-effective in a way you can't quite quantify.

Nor does it only serve the needs of expat Britons. Over 50 percent of members in Jerusalem are native Hebrew speakers, includ; ing several prominent local politicians and academics.

It seems that by reversing the closure decision, the British have reassessed the importance of having a BC presence in west

'Correct decision' ... finally

Greville Janner, the British member of parliament who originally protested the decision to close the British Council library in west Jerusalem, told The Jerusalem Post that he was "delighted" with the new decision. I had told the Foreign

Office minister responsible. Jeremy Handley, that I couldn't think of a worse place or time to close a British Council The protests and the pub-

licity that ensued have produced exactly the results they should do in a democracy. Janner said he had received many letters and faxes from

both Britain and Israel. The nicest one was from a member of the Jerusalem City Council. She sent me a drawing of the library by her nine-year-old daughter saying, 'Please don't Janner implied that the offi-

cial line that it had all been a misunderstanding by Harley Brookes was patently nonsense. "It would be absolutely unique for a British Council director to announce the closure of an operation he runs without first being clearly told from London it was closing.

"The government has obviously reconsidered and now come to the correct decision."

admit that it was after all a genuine change of heart, the British no doubt deserve some praise for reconsidering the matter.

"Israel is now a top-priority country for Britain in all shapes and forms," Brookes told the Post

Today's edition of 'Davar': Is this the final issue?

It looks like the end of the road for the newspaper wrongly dubbed 'the Israeli Pravda'. Michal Yudelman reports

UST after midnight, the ancient doors of an old building on the corner of Sheinkin and Melchett streets creaked on their hinges and slammed shut. This will almost certainly hring to an end 70 years of press history.

Barring any last-minute miracle_Davar - Davar Rishon for the past eight months - will have shut. This time, judging by the tired faces in the shabby building which had become much more than a mere workplace, no deus ex machina was expected to descend from on bigh.

"The dice," said one journalist, sadly, as she packed her personal stuff, "were loaded from the start." A year and a half ago the Histadrut's new leadersbip decided to close Davar in line with the "new Histadrut's" policy that a

labor federation should not own Davar's journalists gritted their teeth, dug their heels in and fought on, heroically and against all odds.

But it was a battle lost before it began. The workers could not find a private financial backer for the newspaper and the Histadrut cut its financial pipeline. It was a death sentence deferred.

Efraim Davidi, the journalists' union chairman, is clear what it

"We are developing into a cynical society in which anything which isn't profitable doesn't have

a right to exist." On Monday, June 1, 1925 the first edition of Davar - "The Newspaper of the workers of Eretz Yisrael" hit the newsstands. The editor-inchief was Berl Katznelson.

Davar was the newspaper of the Labor Movement, a large circle, encompassing almost all the nation's leaders and statesmen. Its subscribers included the kihhutzim, Histadrut bodies and mem-

bers, and all the country's leaders. The finest writers and poets, from Natan Alterman to S.Y. Agnon and Uri Zvi Grinberg wrote for it. Its editorials and columnists were quoted everywhere.

Davar faithfully reflected the positions of the Labor movement and the heads of the new Jewish settlements, and its prestige and influence were unequaled from the 1930s to the 1950s.

But the '60s saw the emergence of a new generation which was ured of the paper's didactic tone and its identification with the ruling establishment. In 1969 it still had 175,000 readers, but by then most of them were complimentary subscribers. Only 35,000 copies were paid for.

Gradually Davar lost popularity. It was never what anyone might call a "profit-making" organization, and as the advertisers moved off to other newspapers, Davar started to lose money.

The Histadrut set up a committee to work out a recovery plan, but in reality it did nothing to revamp the style, or manage it more efficiently. or adjust it to changing Israeli society. All it did was to reduce Davar's budget and pay its debts at the end of each year. By the '90s, Davar's readers had dwindled to a few thousand and the Histadrut leaders lost

When Haim Ramon took the Histadrut by storm in 1994, he saw the way clear to close down what was become not only a moneyloser, but another symbol of the old and dying Histadrut like the red flag and socialist values.

As far as Ramon - and much of the public - was concerned, Davar was still a political newspaper laying down the party line, and its day was done.

Ramon and the new leadership,



'Davar' employee Mazal examines a copy in the archives.

with the election slogan of bringing "new life" to the Histadrut. brought mostly death. Davar was one of the casualties.

In fact, Davar was nothing like its staid "party-line" image. Yediot Aharonot columnist Nahum Barnea wrote this week: "For 15 years I worked for Davar. The newspaper was a wonderful school for free journalism, jour-

summer. There were newspapers which were more modernand richer. But facts had a meaning in Davar. So did language, So did culture. The newspaper had much of

nalism without any real fear of landlord or owner. "Davar was never an airy newspaper, one to take to the beach in

the smell of this country. Regrettably, this country has lost its smell to television game shows."

Davar columnist Teddy Preuss also wrote in Yediot Aharonot this week: "When I was invited in 1962 to write for Davar, I hesitated: would I be able to adjust to the Israeli Pravda? When I decided to do so anyway, I soon learned how wrong I had been. Nobody asked what my party affiliation was, and even so-called heretical essays were published."

Ramon suddenly found himself facing off against a determined action committee. Headed by Davidi, Yael Fishbein, Amir Neuman and others, Davar fought tooth and nail to find the paper a life-support system.

They formed an action committee which lobbied tirelessly for the Histadrut to let them operate and manage the newspaper, a revolutionary concept never tried in Israel. At the same time they hunted down potential private investors who might buy part of the newspaper's shareholding,

After a few months, Ramon realized that closing down a spirited newspaper might not look so good on his public resume. Along with his colleagues in the Histadrut leadership, MKs Amir Peretz and Haim Oron, he agreed to let the journalists try to operate and manage their own newspaper.

With new editor-in-chief Ron Ben-Yishai - one of Israel's most talented journalists - at the helm, Davar received a facelift, a new format, and a new name: Davar

In less than a year, Davar Rishon. doubled the number of paying sub-! scribers. It was predicted to break even in another year. Davar Rishon came close to accomplishing the impossible and proving that a group of journalists could not only. put out their own newspaper, but do it well on a balanced budget.

Davar Rishon's executive committee made these commitments to the Histadrut: to avoid dismissing journalists, to employ most of the defunct Al Humishmar's journalists, to revamp the newspaper, and to find private financial backing to replace the Histadrut.

All commitments but the crucial last one were met. Private investors were not exactly standing in line outside the decrepit doors of the old-new newspaper. Intensive negotiations with busi-

nessmen Jean Friedman and Leon Charney ended in failure. As the December 31 approached, the Histadrut refused to renew its financial support.

Ben-Yishai doesn't hlame anybody for the newspaper's demise. "It's a tragedy with no villain." he said.

Davidi disagrees. The Histadrue which shamelessly demands that private employers lay aside calculations of profit and maintain floundering industrial plants in order to support the workers' livelihoods, refused to apply the principle to its own company, Davar Rishon.

"In the case of Ouman, the textile plant in Ofakim, the Histadrut set up a battle headquarters to obtain production orders," he said. (Israel Son)

"We asked for no more than they did for Ouman."
The government supports losing

enterprises with millions of dollars, to prevent unemployment, Davidi said. Only recently, it gave the foreign Intel company \$500 million to build a plant in Kiryar Gat to encourage employment

There are governments which support newspapers directly, like Austria, which pays an annual \$33 million to non-profitable publications, just to ensure they maintain their high standards.

Zeit, for which Theodor Herzl used to write, gets a \$3.5 million. annual subsidy. France subsidizes: newspapers whose subscribers number less than 100,000. Theseinclude the religious La Croix and the communist L'Humanité, supported in the name of media plu-

\$4 million. "Daver is the only. newspaper in Israel which protects workers' rights and is sensitive to social issues and values; some thing nobody expects of Nimredi and Moses [the families which own Ma'arty and Yediot Aframot.

"But the government of Israel believes that a newspaper which:

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"The veteran newspaper Die

ralism," Davidi said. Davar Rishon, which employs 200 workers, was asking for only

respectively]. isn't making money has no right to exist," Davidi said

Today there are only four them privately owned by three families, By the end of the weeks

Bias is chronic at 'The Economist'

AST week's column focused on the two recent stories about Israel and the Palestinians in The Economist, which were slanted to fit the magazine's agenda. These stories were not exceptional. The Economist's tendentiousness is a chronic condition.

The Boston-based media-watch organization CAMERA (Committee on Accuracy of Middle East Reporting in America) has made a study of the way the magazine's bias affects its reporting. The following are some excerpts from a recent letter it sent International Editor Stephen Hugh-Jones:

Stephen Hugh-Jones:

The Economist has consistently promoted Arab perspectives in both its editorials and its news columns - which are themselves laced with opinion - and has failed to report accurately key facts and events necessary to convey a full and balanced picture of the region... The Economist has failed to report terrorism committed against Israeli innocents in a manner that accurately reflects the character and ferocity of those campaigns.
"We pointed out that one telling dimension of this chronic minimizing of least the character and the character an

Israel's vulnerability is the use of sani-tized language. In this regard it is instructive to note the publication's more candid terminology for murderous political assaults carried out by various mon-Arah groups.

For example, between the spring of 1994 and the fall of 1995 [the period of CAMERA's analysis of The Economist] the magazine referred at least 15 times to 'IRA terrorists.' The publication also wrote of Peru's 'Shining Path terrorists,' Kurdish terrorists,' and 'Basque terror

However, during this same span,

rorist losses than during any comparable period since the founding of the state, there is not a single characterization of those groups murdering Jews as 'Hamas terrorists, 'Islamic Jihad terrorists' or 'Arab terrorists.' (The only use of Palestinian terrorists' is a passing reference to the 1972 Munich Olympics in a

column about the World Cup.) Instead, as we have said, your preferred terms for the killers are 'Islamists,' 'activists,' 'guerrillas,' 'suicide-bombers, 'militants,' 'fighters' and 'rejectionists.' Thus, an egregiously deceptive column on October 15, 1994, describes an attack oo Hamas on civilians at a Jerusalem cafe that killed two and maimed others as a 'burst of militarism' carried out by 'Hamas guerrillas. There is no mention of terrorism or

The piece also castigates Israel yet again for closing her borders in the aftermath of the murders and repeats Arab views about the unfairness of such action. Emblematic of The Economist, the emphasis is not on the murdered and maimed but on the grievances of the

The reporter provides no detail of the horrific assault that killed 22, turning instead to the anger of the populace. Ezer Weizman is called the 'hot-blooded president for expressing outrage over the atrocity. Israelis are also reminded not to cause the Arabs 'hardship and frustration' by closing the borders for protection. The same article cites the earlier attack in Jerusalem by Hamas, calling it a 'gun-and-grenade attack.' Not terrorism.

The editorial that accompanied the 'news report' that week emphasized Arafat's difficult dilemma and the need DAVID BAR-ILLAN

to understand it.

"Further examples: Your report on the Afula terror attack in April 1994 that killed seven and maimed dozens speaks only of 'bus terrorism.' In the 10-paragraph article only one concerns the murders; the remainder are devoted to the ders; the remainder are devoted to the aftermath of the Hebron massacre and the 'revealed rot' in the IDF that permitted it. No 'rot' is similarly perceived in Arafat's Palestinian Authority that allows Hamas to wage systematic terror campaigns against Jews from training and organizational bases in Gaza.

"A report on the gruesome Hadera hus bombing carried out by Hamas that killed five and wounded dozens a week later contains no mention at all of terror-

later contains no mention at all of terrorism or terrorists.

The murder of two Israelis on May 17 by Hamas is, again, not terrorism in the magazine's lexicon but the action of 'Islamic gunmen.'

"A July 29 report is the only one that contains the straightforward assertion that a bombing, again on a Tel Aviv bus, 'was pure terrorism.'

"... the magazine's flagrant promotion of the Arab agenda demonstrated in conof the Arab agenda demonstrated in continually referring to 'Palestine' ... at least 20 times since the Oslo signings you have used "Palestine" in the body of a story to denote a political entity. There are repeated references to 'Arafat's return to Palestine.' There are references to 'liberated Palestine,' 'occupied Palestine' and 'Palestine's rehirth.'

We find no references, for instance, to the thuggery of Jibril Rajouh, Arafat's strongman security chief, who has been

implicated in kidnappings, killings and torture of Arabs, a phenomenon that greatly threatens the stability of the autonomous areas now cheek-by-jowl with Israeli municipalities. Nor has there been mention of Rajouh swearing in new recruits to his security services with Nazi salutes and cries for the 'liberation' of such Israeli cities as Haifa and

TO HUGH-JONES'S credit, he has conscientiously responded to all the critical letters CAMERA and London mediawatcher Ruth Willers have sent him. He has not succeeded in refuting a single major charge - the magazine's record speaks for itself. But his answers do pro-vide some insight into one of the most puzzling phenomena of our time - the almost universal anti-Israel tone of the world media.

Hugh-Jones is obviously sorely irritated by these attacks on his journalistic integrity. Why he gets so livid is not within the competence of this column. But it is astonishing to find a senior editor of the leading British news magazine referring to factual, carefully-researched referring to factual, carefully-researched criticism as "farrago of nonsense," "codswallop," "a set of libels," and "rubbish," announcing that "life is too short to answer all [these] charges," and calling his critics "Propagandists... whose job is to distort [the truth]." and "a burch of self-appointed quardians of "a hunch of self-appointed guardians of morais."

It is also surprising to find him using an argument one does not expect in a serious communication; "CAMERA... is

a pro-Israel lobby. The Economist is a news weekly eager for a durable peace and for justice - without which there will be no peace - in the Middle East; but committed to neither side in the Israeli-Palestinian argument, since we accept that both sides have powerful

"It is of course possible that such a weekly is guilty of bias and propaganda, while the committed lobby tells imparthat truth. Or, of course, just possibly things may be the other way about. Which is more likely?"

To be charitable, it may be that Hugh-

Jones really believes that, as he put it in one of his letters, "It was until recently hard to report the Palestinian side properly: the PLO was hanned, or miles away in Tunis, the West Bank and Gaza were wholly under military occupation. Since Oslo, we and others have been able to do a more balanced job. Inevitably, this means, on occasion, reporting facts or views far removed from the easy Israelis good. Palestinians terrorists' plainly dear to some who write to us to object."

Reading such "reasoning" makes one wonder where Hugh-Jones has been in the past two decades. No head of state, with the possible exception of the American president, has received greater attention, more media exposure and more favorable press than Arafat. Nor has any terrorist organization been treated more sympathetically than the PLO, nor any cause championed with greater ardor than that of the Palestinians.

Clearly, one of the most dedicated of these champions is Hugh-Jones himself. Not that he is alone in viewing the Palestinians as a people robbed of its land and oppressed by Israel rather than as a spearhead of an Arah world bent on Israel's destruction.

If he is different it is because he so consistently treats other "liberation movements" with none of the sympathy he lavishes on the Palestinians. A CAM-ERA study comparing The Economist's attitude on the Kurds and the Palestinians is instructive. (A comparison with the treatment of the IRA would have been even more striking.) On every important issue: whether they deserve a state; their prospects of attaining one; the terminology regarding the land they claim; and the use of the term terrorism – the PLO is treated with admiration while the Kurds PKK is excoriated and dismissed as a "terrorist outfit."

Instructive, too, is what irritated Hugh-Jones more than any other charge. In pointing out that IRA gunmen are always called terrorists while the Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists never are, CAMERA wrote, "Apparently, the spilling of British blood deserves the appellation [terrorism], the spilling of Jewish blood doesn't."

This Hugh-Jones interpreted as an accusation of antisemitism - "the allegation urelessly aimed by any-weaponwill-do propagandists, at those who crit-icize Israel." His rage is palpahle: "We over here - not least in this office - have a significant minority of people who are both British and Jewish; and all of us know of, some have lived through, the days when similar distinctions were being drawn between 'Jewish blood' and German blood... I do not liken CAM-ERA to the Nazis... I do say your choice

of language is a dangerous one..."

The gentleman doth protest too much,

by DOSH

When the news media act as partners in the debate

HE major, probably the sole, beneficiaries of a hill now before the Knesset will be the coalition parties, unless stringent stipulations protecting the rights of the opposition are written into it.

The bill would lift the ban on the broadcasting by TV Channels 1 and 2 of events featuring candidates for election to the Knesset during the 30 days before Election Day.

Submitted by Lattor whip Haggai Merom and Tsomet whip

Eliezer Zandberg, it was approved last week by the 165 seconds (4%). Knesset Law Committee for first reading in the plenum.

The lifting of the ban is certain. to make our TV the virtual exclusive mouthpiece of the coalition candidates, just as it is now the virtual house organ of the government and its allies.

How many official and other public events worthy of coverage, by the strictest standards of objectivity, are candidates of opposition parties likely to feature in as compared to candidates of the coalition parties, which include current cabinet minis-

And we know how our TV (radio, too) has relegated dissenting personages, views and activities to virtual pariah status except eccentric ones or those it stages, like the infamous Eyal "swearing-in" ceremony orga-nized for the ITV crew by a GSS provocateur.

HAIM ASA, who was Yitzhak Rahin's national-security adviser till early 1994, criticized the onesidedness of our state-sponsored electronic news media in their coverage of events in the wake of Rabin's assassination.

"Instend of fuffilling their assigned role - serving as a neutral forum for the views of all sides - they made themselves a side to the debate," he wrote in the Labor-oriented daily Davar Rishon on November 21.

During the week following the assassination, the Jerusalemhased Media Watch organization monitored the broadcasts of several programs on ITV's Channel 1. The report, prepared by Media Watch director Yisrael Medad and Pnina Cohen, tells us:

The special Popolitika broadeast the night after the morder,

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

Sunday, November 5, featured 12 "political" participants identi-fied with Labor and other leftwing parties; six persons appear-ing as friends or former col-leagues of Rabin, also identified with the left; three identified with right-wing parties; and

three neutrals.

The leftist "politicals" had the screen for 2,970 seconds, or 71% of the time; the rightists - 1,045 seconds (25%); the neutrals -

The regular Popolitika of November 7 featured four speakers from each side. The left was given 68% of the time, with 1,390 seconds, including several minutes during which Finance Minister Avraham Shohat had the screen to himself and then shared it only with Meretz MK Naomi Chazan; and the right, 643 sec-

onds (32%). The special 90-minute Shalom Rabin broadcast of November 8 had five speakers from the left, none from the right, and a "neutral" academic expert on Israel's Orthodox community. The left viewpoint had 85% of the time

(3,679 seconds). During this time, Media Watch notes, writers Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua cautioned against stereotyping and global condem-

The neutral expert got the remaining 15% (639 seconds). The Friday evening homan weekly news magazine of November 10 featured four Labor people (1,161 seconds), two from the Likud (778 seconds), and Henry Kissinger (13

The news-and-interview programs featured a combined total of 107 personalities that week, 54 supporters of government policy (50%), 32 opponents (30%) and 29 neutrals (20%).

OUR FOREIGN Ministry operates an Internet news service. Israel Line, and faxes the same material to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, public figures and the news media throughout the world. It portrays the service as a "media survey.

Last year Media Watch, then fairly new on the scene, monitored Israel Line between

February 22 and March 8 and during all of July. It published its findings, prepared by Medad and Media Watch co-founder and chairman Prof. Eli Pollack, in September (surveyed in the October 20 Jerusalem Post by David Bar-Illan).

Israel Line proved to be more an organ of the Foreign Ministry's Labor management than an objective survey. Here

It did not carry a single item from the Post among the more than 200 it carried from various newspapers in both periods.

In the February 22-March 8 period, Davar, then the low-circulation organ of the Histadrut, and the now-defunct Mapam daily Al Hamishmar (which also has a low circulation) were the combined source of 35% of the 40-odd items, with another 35% coming from the professedly independent but left-leaning Ha'aretz, Yediot Aharonot and Ma'ariv, the latter two heing mass-circulation newspapers.

Of 140 items in July, Ha'aretz was the source of 40%; Israel Radio - 25%; Davar - 24%; Yediot Aharonot - 5.7%; Ma'ariv - 5%; ITV Channel 1 - 2.1%.

It reported none of the major demonstrations protesting against government policy that took place in different parts of the country in July, except to mention the IDF's ejection of Jewish squatters from Givat Hadagan in Efrat.

Among the personalities mentioned were Rahin, 65 times; then-foreign minister Shimon Peres (63); Yasser Arafat (26); US negotiator Dennis Ross (17); then-deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin (12). Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor MK and Third Way co-founder Avigdor Kahalani each got all of two mentions.

Media Watch is in the process of collating the findings of a follow-np survey of Israel Line.

DR. JOSEPH Lerner, co-director of IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis, suggests that an independent ombudsman committee monitor TV and radio during the pre-election period, and that those media give the omhudsman, say, 15-minutes daily to report on the "balance of

SRULIK









Spousal love is a direct result of parental love

"And if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant, she shall not go out as the menservants do. If she please not her master, who has not espoused her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto foreign people he shall have no power. And if he espouse her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters. If he take him another wife, her food, her raiment, and her conjugal rights shall be not diminish." (Exodus 21:7-10)

ho doesn't feel shocked by the notion of a man v selling his daughter into slavery? How jarring such verses seem to those of us used to studying the portion of the week with an eye to its contemporary application!

What compounds this matter is that the Sages derive the fundamental legal requirements of a husband toward his wife from this passage! The Bible allows the master or his son to take this serving girl as a wife (only with her consent, of course), and furthermore stipulates that even if the son should subsequently take another wife, he may not diminish the food, clothing and sexual gratification that he owes the first; hence, food, clothing, and conjugal rights are a husband's marital obligations toward a wife, codified and guaranteed in the ketuba.

One must remember that the Torah not only speaks to every generation; it also spoke to the generation in which it was first given. And in the ancient world,

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

feeding one's children was a major challenge. "Selling" them as apprentices was a way of teaching them a trade and being relieved of having to support

The limits which Oral Law placed on slavery - forbidding menial or unlimited work and insisting that the slave receive identical living conditions as were enjoyed by the master ~ effectively redefined servitude as apprenticeship.

From this perspective, the true purpose of the aforementioned law is to protect the rights of every girl in a Jewish household. The real point of the biblical passage is the limitation of the father's control.

First and foremost, Rashi explains, there is a strict time limit as to when a daughter can be placed in another household as a servant-apprentice: only if she is under 12, or before she has begun to show even the earliest signs of sexual maturity. As soon as this happens, she either returns to her parents' home or marries her employer (if both parties con-

And when we remember that the Oral Law insisted that a father could only enter his daughter into such an apprenoceship arrangement if he had absolutely nothing else to sell, we realize that the Bible is providing a poor girl with a unique opportunity to enter a higher

Deriving the obligations of a

husband toward his wife from this particular context is a logical extension of everything we have been saying. If indeed she is married by her employer, he must understand that she is his wife and not his servant; and the girl's father must understand that the goal of the apprennceship is mar-

It certainly is also important to note that long before the Kinsey Report, the Torah recognized that women had legitimate sexual needs. Indeed, the Bible requires a husband to satisfy his wife, but does not explicitly enjoin a wife to satisfy her husband.

Deriving the laws of a hushand's requirements from this context is significant for another reason. The two fundamental relationships in this passage become intertwined and are perhaps therefore mutually condiuonal: parent to child (father to daughter) and spouse to spouse (hashand to wife).

All of the laws in this week's portion of Mishpatim constitute law qua law; we're oot concerned with the story behind them. But between the lines of these verses is a world of unspoken feelings and familial drama. Imagine the overwhelming shame that must result from having 10' sell one's daughter, even as an apprentice. and then the sustaining hope that she will be well provided for in

Herein we find universal expressions of the human heart as well as a practical means for

social and economic advancement in what had always been a static society.

THERE is yet another human lesson in linking marital obligations to the limitations of parental con-

Interestingly, the first expression of love in the Torah does not appear in the context of man and woman, but rather refers to the love between father and child. Appearing to Ahraham in the context of the hinding. God commands, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac,.." (Gen, 22:2)

It is only because Abraham understands that Isaac belongs not to him hut to God - and is therefore free - that he can even begin to acquiesce to the hinding. And when does she word "love" appear for the second time? After Ahraham's servant

Eliezer returns with Rebecca, we are told that "Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebecca, and she became his wife and he loved ber." (24:67)

What this suggests is that every successful husband-wife relationship is a direct outgrowth of haviog experienced healthy. trusi-inspiring, parental love. The formula seems simple enough. If parents show love 10 a child, they enable him to love and feel worthy of love.

Now if we reread the verses quoted above, we will discover how the realines of another age can still contain meaningful lessons for our generation.
Shabbat Shalom

Taking care of the elderly, children and new immigrants

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK 'm not writing my weekly appeal from my usual place, my desk.

I'm writing this in bed; where some bug from Johannesburg or Timbuktu has laid me low, But it is amazing how being temreported incapacitated has allowed

me to concentrate on the less fortunate members of our country who suffer on a fairly regular basis. Our three funds try to cover the whole gamm of these fellow citizens, whether they are elderly

people living on their own in cold. substandard housing, subsisting on bread and milk, with arthritic bones and bad teeth; or children in institutions and foster homes with limited budgets, missing the par-ties and presents of family life; or new immigrants walking five km. to work or university, trying to make ends meet in a strange land. So, when I get back to work in a few days, I hope to find a great

pile of letters on my desk, each

accompanied with a generous

Don't let me down, because I've

resolved, with your help, not to let

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NIS 200 in honor of the 100th birthday of our cousin Sarah Shapiro Blueslein - Abe and Edie Lees and Nachum and Nechama Remen. In fondest remembrance of Zvi - Enie. NIS 103 On the occasion of the 103rd birthday of Dr. Lotte Aronheim on

February 19th - The Family,
NIS 100 In honor of Dr. Geoff Collins
on his 60th hirthday - Dorothy and
Jesmond Birkhan, Haifa, In memory of May Stone - from C. and A. In loving memory of my parents and tittle sister who perished in Auschwitz - E. Laufer, Haifa. In memory of Sadie Goldman, a very gracious lady and my dearest friend Rosa Shaw, Herzliya.

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North-South vulnerable

NICK KOPALOFF

The Israel Chess Federation's magazine Shahmat is one of the finest around and comparable in its standard and format to many top European chess journals. However, it almost exclusively focuses on World class players, leaving cluh level players and general enthusiasts to sometimes feel that they are devoting far too much energy to the wrong

David Deutsch of Kfar Sava voiced that same grievance ahout this column, recommending it periodically cite weaker players. By so doing, he maintains, the enthusiast can learn from the hlatant hlunders committed by those of similar playing strength.

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At top levels of play, he adds, chess mistakes are so often indiscernihle that they can go unnoticed by the amateur. There is no doubt that analysis of games played hy mere enthusiasts can provide them with the incentive and motivation to take their game to much higher levels.

In response to Deutsch's claims, readers are invited to send in games they feel are worthy of annotation.

Napoleon Bonaparte was a chess enthusiast. He was also the emperor of France. Following his exile to St. Helena, Napoleon continued his warring tendencies, hut was only able to see them through over the chess board. His method of playing demonstrated a clear preference for spacial and territorial expansion as opposed to quiet positional development.

Napoleon Bonaparte, General Bertrand St. Helena, 1818 Scotch Game

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.e4 e5 3.d4; The Scotch Game was once a favorite with Blackburne and Chigorin. It quickly fell out of favor, despite attempts at rebabilitation by the Israeli master Moshe Czerniak. In recent years, PCA World Champion Garry Kasparov has repopularized the Scotcb.

3...Nxd4; this is a very rare and most probably inferior line to the

standard 3.exd4. 4.Nxd4; On 4.Nxe5 Brack would retreat his knight to e6 with a cramped but very playable

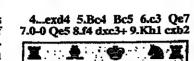


DIAGRAM 1

after Black's 9th move 10.Bxf7+!; avoiding winning the queen with the simple 10.fxe5 hxa I=Q and then capturing on f7. Bonaparte reverses the move order in the hope that after 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.fxe5+ be will win a whole Queen with a check tempo and then in the next move capture the dangerous Black pawn

10...Kd8 11.fxe5 bxa1=Q 12.Bxg8 Be7; If 12...Rxg8 Bonaparte cleans up with 13.Qd5. 13.Qb3 a5? 14.Rf8+ Bxf8 15.Bg5+ Be7 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Qf7+ Kd8 18.Qf8++ 1-0The following White to play and win position, taken from the game played hy Lasker and Mazor, can hardly be regarded as cryptic. But the player with the White pieces is the former World Champion Emanuel Lasker nor the great German master Edward

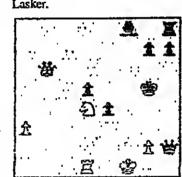


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.Nf3+ exf3 2.Rxd5+ Kg4 3.Qd4+ Qf4;

3...Kg3 4.Rg5++ 4.gxf3+ Cxf3: 4...Kg3 5.Qf2 Kh3 6.Rh5+-

5.Qf2+ Kg4 6.Rd4 winning the Black Queen with a difficult yet won position for White. 1-0



Making a comeback

plants, and birds have been decimated in this century, there are still some singularly outstanding conservation successes, especially here.

Just two winters ago, a portion of the Hula wetlands was reflooded. This wetland had been drained in the '50s in the Hula Reclamation Project, creating the stretch of dried peat moss several meters deep that had turned into a wasteland. Not much grew there and the peat was tunneled by millions of voles.

In unsuccessful attempts to get rid of them, the Agriculture Ministry had, for years, carried out massive poisoning campaigns. The vole population survived quite successfully, but many of the predatory birds that fed on the poisoned voles died.

In addition, fires broke out in the morass of peat and burned underground for weeks at a time, spreading through the voles' hinD'VORA BEN SHAUL

source to keep the fires ablaze. All of this poison and asb and soot was annually swept down into the Kinneret when the rains came.

Wildlife, particularly the oncerich bird life of the area, disappeared for the most part. In the late '50s fewer than 100 cranes cbose to winter in the now "reclaimed" area, although tens of thousands of these birds bad wintered there before the reclamation. This number did gradually increase and every winter in recent years about 2,500 cranes came to the Hula reserve - the only part of the once vast Hula wetlands to survive in something resembling its natural state - and

in the surrounding areas. But this year, only two years after reflooding the swamp. 16,000 cranes have been sighted there. Just how they found this

delight the beart of any viewer. There are also more dabbling ducks in the new area than anyone remembers seeing for years, as well as many other species that had almost ceased to spend a part of their lives here. In fact, it is all happening much faster than even the most enthusiastic nature lover

The native flora is also making a comeback; there are new clumps of papyrus and other water plants. The dabblers are finding quite enough duckweed and other aquatic plants to satisfy their needs. And all of this in a short two winters.

Just what the future will bold for this wonderful new-old wetland remains to be seen. Right now there is a lot of dissension about whether to keep it for nature or make a hotel complex and holiday. area of it. But one thing is for certain, the idea of reflooding a part of the Hula has turned out to be more successful than even the

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Champion imports

set the pace

MATTHEW GRANOVELLER

West North (all pass)

Opening lead: •Q

The most exciting tournament of the year for Israeli bridge players began yesterday, with the opening of the 30th International Bridge Festival in Tel-Aviv, sponsored by Dubek. More than \$25,000 in prize money will be at stake and many star players from around the world will take part.

Since Israel is a nation with many immigrants, it is natural that many of its top players began their bridge careers elsewhere. Two such players finished first and second in the Beit America women's championship, a fiveweek tournament concluded

Sunday.
Former American Pamela Granovetter of Netanya, part-nered by Rosy Bezner of Tel. Aviv, won the event, capping a strong winter in which they also won the seven-session Tel Aviv. women's championship of Beit Bridge Club. Runners-up were Matilda Lorer, formerly of Bulgaria, and her partner, Tova-Benor, of Tel Aviv.

Lorer and Granovetter have won numerous major championships but have yet to play internationally for Israel.

Today's deal was played in the Beit America five-session openpair championship, the final event staged at this bridge cinb before closing its doors this week and merging with Beit Bridge. Granovetter, who was South in the diagram, reached three notrump after West had opened the bidding one heart. This con-

led a heart. Declarer could win, play the king of diamonds, ducked by West, followed by a spade to dummy for another diamond play.

The two entries to dummy in the spade suit would provide declarer with the opportunity to establish the diamond suit and return to duranty to cash the diamond winners. At the table, however, West found the killing opening lead of the spade queen destroying one

of dummy's vital entries. Declarer won the first trick with the king of spades and led a diamond to the king, ducked by West. Now declarer attacked hearts, leading the king to West's

West continued spades with the 10, and declarer ducked, so West persisted with the spade four, won by dummy's ace. The defense now had four sure tricks, two spades and two aces. Meanwhile, declarer counted her winners. She had two spade tricks, three hearts and one diamond, six tricks, and, therefore, needed three club tricks for ber contract.

This was a peculiar situation. Normally, the finesse in clubs would be the correct play, especially in view of the fact that East was known to hold six or seven clubs (West had shown up with nine major-suit cards and at least two diamonds). In fact, the finesse was the clear-percentage play for two club tricks, but it would do declarer no good in this case, because she needed

Granovetter led the queen of diamonds to West, giving him an opportunity to make a mistake by leading a club. But West won, cashed the jack of spades and contimed with the nine of hearts to South. Finally, in desperation, the ace of clubs was played and, when the king fell, declarer had nine winners and her contract.

AMONG THE championship events this week at the Tel Aviv Convention Center are a two-session mixed pairs at 4 and 8 p.m Sunday; a three-session open pairs at 4 and 8 Monday, and 4 Tuesday; a one session top-bottom; at 8 p.m. Tuesday; a onesession in pairs, at 4 Wednesday, and a three-session

Swiss teams at 8 Wednesday, and For more inflammation, phone the Israel Bridge Federation at 106 325222

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 A chnrister ant involved in tbe arrangement (13)

10 Led a nun astray, but not chargedi (7) 11 Possibly show me lova in ona way or annthar (7) 12 It's about time to revise (4)

13 Having little to say about trees (5) 14 A balpful guide, nr hint, left inside (4)

17 He dnesn't appreciate where the coal goes (7) 18 Stretch a point and look inside (7)

19 A deerstalker'a comedown?

22 Arched and jumped (7) 24 Love to nperate on the river 25 Vehicle to travel as freight

26 Wa four are coming back to have a look (4) 29 Stnrm abnut like a

30 His examinations necessi-

31 Mndarn painting'a condition (5,2,3,3)

2 Winding up very rich when 3 A measure of concealment

politician in a tantrum (7) tate a lot of book-work (7)

DOWN

4 It's true I will appear in tha screen version (7) 5 Comes to life again and gets out of bed (5,2)

6 Spell it out to me (4) 7 Theatrical gentleman to

> children to be brought up in it (8.5) 9 1t cuts both ways (3-5,5) 15 Lengthy communication?

16 One making up for lack of practice (5)
20 is it for the fleet-footed?

rise with a greeting (7)

8 Ona does not wish one's

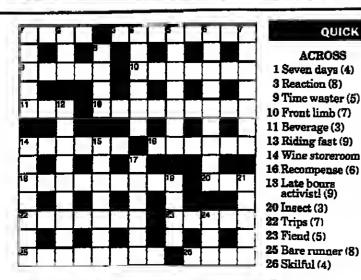
21 Fix old boy up with dummy pill (7) 22 Beggar gets state hand-out

23 Ona whn ebaata in pontoon? (7)

27 It isn't all go (4) 28 The advantage being sharp gives one? (4)

SOLUTIONS

a fielibble ziate



ACROSS 1 Seven days (4) 3 Reaction (8) 9 Time waster (5) 10 Front limb (7)

11 Beverage (3) 13 Riding fast (9) 14 Wine storeroom (6) 16.Recompense (6)

18 Late bours activist! (9) 20 Insect (3) 22 Trips (7) 23 Fiend (5)

6 Barren woman (9) 7 Betrothed (7) 8 Boast (4) 12 Crocodilian (9) 14 Film examiners (7) 15 Aerial (7) 17 Soft paper (6)

DOWN: 1 Praise, 2 Trouble, 3 Networks, 4 Hash, 5 Tread, 2 Sister, 7 Fault, 13 Minister, 16 Everest, 17 Father, 19 Yearn, 20 Utters, 22 Parks, 24 Cost. QUICK CROSSWORD

DOWN 1 Middle of trunk (5) 2 Slippery fisb (3) 4 Embrace (6) 5 Determination (7)

19 Extinct bird (4) 21 Strained (5)

TRIBUNGIAS



STYLE FOR LERGERSHIP

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Time to finish pruning those rose bushes

Thlike the rest of the world, we are having a rather mild winter. The narcissus are hlooming, and in sheltered gardens the iris and the alyssum are also blooming. In the woods around Jerusalem, cyclamen and crocus abound, and Galilee is bursting with its yearly show of

So it's high time we finish pruning our rose bushes, as they are already pushing out the red growth of new leaves, even in the colder mountain areas.

We should at this time remember the three basic rules for all pruning - the weaker last year's growth, the more severely you must prune; prune hard for larger and fewer flowers, prune less for more flowers; and wear a pair of sturdy gloves and long sleeves to avoid getting scratched.

We must keep in mind that the more healthy green leaves the plant grows, the more roses it will produce. Start by removing any suckers left from last year. You can quite easily recognize them, as suckers usually come up from below the level of the soil and always from below the scion (the large graft).

Do not cut these, as they will have a tendency to grow right INEZ KLIMIST

back. Instead, dig down far enough to see the spot where the sucker sprouts, and break it off as close to the main stem as you can. They grow much faster than the grafted part of the plant, draining away strength and producing info-rior roses, if any at all.

You don't want them. Leave as much of last year's growth as you can, priming back only enough to shape your bush. Leave two-thirds of the busb intact or cut down to no less than 45 centimeters. Cut out very old canes to open the center of your plant, leaving space for vigorous new growth. No more than five cames should be coming out of the scion, so new growth

will have enough space to grow. The bush, ideally, should be cup-shaped, with an open area in the center so the sun can shine directly on the scion. Cut old growth close to the scion with a very sharp pruning secateur. No stub should remain. If the branch is too thick or too hard for a secateur, use a small saw. Never try to break or twist off a branch.

Next, cut away all ends which have been damaged by wind, frost

just where you see the green stem showing. The end of the cus sbould show white clear wood. If there are traces of brown in the

wood, cut away a bit more. Make all your cuts 1 cm. above a bed. Cut farther away, and you will end up with an unsightly stub, cut less and you may injure the new leaf. Shape the bush to the size you want and then quit. Clean up the area around the plants. Get rid of weeds and old leaves, and dig a bit to aerate the soil. Keeping the soil clean will prevent disease later.

The only other thing you need to do is cover the larger of the wounds with some type of sealant to prevent invasions by bugs or. disease. You can simply cover the cut with a bit of white paint, or smear on a bit of white or clear. bath-tub sealant. You can use a special sealing compound from the nursery. Whatever you use, make sure it is white or clear, because dark colors will absorb too much sunlight and may burn

the plant..... Give your rose bushes a good feeding with a liquid fertilizer to start them off right. Pour it right over the plant, not just on the roots. Then get ready for some wonderful flowers.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without. THE JERUSALEM



AN ENDEROR

Tales of Gold Rush days reward walkers in San Francisco

A historic red-light district and hidden rooftop gardens are among the highlights of free walking tours in the city, Esther Hecht reports

Twelve red-headed Jewesses all in one brothel, were among the most soughtafter San Francisco prostitutes in the heady years after the Gold

"They fetched a higher price because they were considered exoric. People were curious as to wbether they were anatomically the same as other women," Mary Granger tells the participants in her walking tour of what was once the city's red-light district. Today it is a tiny downtown street, ironically named Maiden Lane, lined with posh shops and elegant restaurants.

The women on what was then Morton Street were among the worst off of the bawds, handling up to 100 customers a night in tiny rented rooms - less than 4 square

meters - called cribs. "Each crih had a small bed, a chair and a basin. At the foot of the bed there was a red or brown oilcloth." Granger says. "This was to protect the carpet, because the street was muddy, and men took off only their hats."

Granger, a retired teacher and librarian, is a City Guide, one of a group of volunteers affiliated with the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, Her tour was one of 24 offered recently, in a city which - with its temperate climate and magnificent vistas - is a walkers paradise. The tours studded with anecdotes about the city's unusual history and architecture, are as entertaining as they are informative, and they are free (though a donation is requested).

According to Granger, who bases her talk on Kurt Gentry's The Madams of San Francisco, French prostitutes, too, were a big hit in the woman-starved Gold Rush days. They sat as lures at gaming tables in gambling establishments, where men had to pay just to sit next to them. It was only

after hours that they worked as

About 2,000 of them were part of a contingent of 5,000 indigent French citizens whose passage to the United States was paid by a lottery raised by president Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte. Some made enough money to return to France and live in comfort.

Until 1855, gamblers and courtesans were the "royalty of San Francisco," but when families started settling the city, madams had to find more discreet ways to lure customers. They instituted the prostitutes' ball, where they could show off new arrivals. "Society women learned not to schedule events on competing

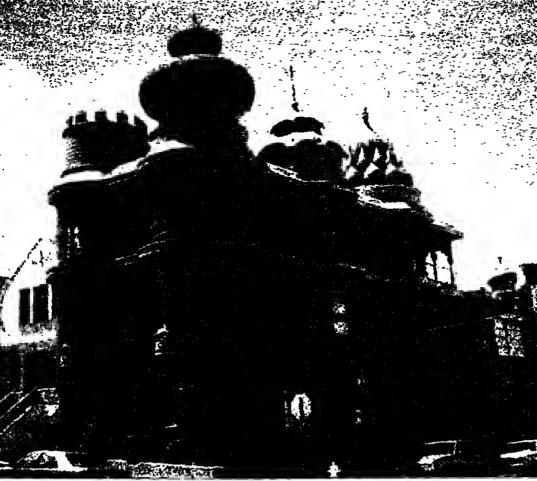
days," Granger says.

Morton Street was not exclusively a red-light district (though, yes, there really were lights with red shades). It had a yeast factory, a laundry, and other smelly businesses. Perhaps that is why the chambers of the State Supreme Court on nearby Post Street had direct access to the

The saddest chapter of all and the longest involved girls imported from China; sold into prostimtion hy their peasant families when famine struck. They received no medical care, and were not allowed to refuse any customer. They were forced to wear distinctive clothing, so it was hard to escape, Most started working at 14 and were dead hy

WHILE SOME women toiled in the cribs, others could be found at "wasberwomen's lagoon," a fresh-water lake in the area bordered today by Union, Franklin, Octavia and Filbert streets.

It was here that in 1850 a visitor said he saw "men up to their waists in water scrubbing their shirts so bard the buttons were



This former Vedanta temple, now a monastery, is in Cow Hollow, a San Francisco neighborhood that is a living textbook of architectural styles.

about to pop off," says Dr. Don Andreini, a historian who grew up in the beavily Italian neigh-borhood called Cow Hollow. His tour, up and down hills with some of the most stupendous views in the city, combines personal recollections with a wellresearched introduction to the past. "At one time there was an outlet to the hay and tidal action cleanised the lake, but shifting sands closed it," he says. Then effluents from a tannery, soap and tallow works, and dairy farms - from which the neighborhood got its name - polluted the lake; by the end of the 1870s the

city started filling it in. Unlike other neighborhoods in the city, Cow Hollow developed piecemeal, and thus bas a wide variety of architecture, including many 19th-century structures that escaped the devastating fire that followed the 1906 earthquake.

One of the best-known is Octagon House, built in 1861, which Andreini could see and fantasize about from the windows of his elementary school classroom. The bouse, with its "inkwell" cupola, was designed by Orson Fowler, an inventor and reformer who believed the octagonal shape was more efficient and conducive to health than a rectangle.

Today the area has a combination of beautiful mansions. upscale apartment houses and a yuppie commercial district.

PARADOXICALLY, one of the worst periods in American history

the years of the Great Depression - yielded some of the city's finest art treasures. To keep

local artists from starving, the federal government was persuaded to employ them in creating frescoes and other monumental art in schools and other public huildings, as well as in Coit Tower, atop Telegraph Hill - a site that most tourists visit for its unparal-Lily Hitchcock Coit, an eccen-

tric who wore men's clothes and smoked eigars in saloons, left a bequest to the city which was used to build the 70-meter tower in 1933. The government then hired 26 artists and 19 assistants to paint a series of frescoes at its base portraying life in California in the Thirties, according to

Georgiane Lansing, whose lively tour is full of piquant detail about the relations between the artists as reflected in their work. Tour participants also have a chance to see some of the most interesting of the frescoes, normally closed to the public because they are paint-ed on both sides of a narrow, winding staircase.

One of the artists was Bernard Zakheim, whose depiction of a library incorporates a portrait of himself poring over a Bible (the Hebrew acronym "Tanach" is on the binding). Con Tower. San Froncisco: Its History and Art, by this artist's daughter, Masha Zakheim Jewett. offers additional detail and lists other places in the city where the artists' work can be seen. Regrettably, both the book and the tour contain some disturbing inaccuracies.

WHILE MANY visitors to Coit Tower are unaware of the frescoes at its base, most people walking in the financial district are oblivious to anything above street level. Hidden many stories above the husy street, however, are sunny rooftop gardens that are open to the public and virtually deserted about them. They are a perfect place for visitors to rest their feet after a walking tour.

The city has a strict sunshine ordinance that limits shadows on open areas, Grace Thorp tells participants on her tour. "At first the planners did a mockup with cardboard maquettes; now it is computerized," she says on a tour that is more notable for the places it reveals than for the accompanying

Not only did the city limit the height of some buildings, but it forced others, like the Crocker Bank, to destroy some upper stories, to make sure the district did not suffer the fate of Manhanan. There is an important lesson here for cities like Jerusalem that are just beginning to become skyscraper jungies.

Programs of current City Guides tours are available at the counter of the San Francisco Visitor Information Center. on the lower level of Hallidie Plaza m the corner of Powell and Market streets, and ot public libraries. Tours last one to two hours ond generally start on time.

Love in the Haight

JUST as the police were responding to a complaint from neighbors about a noisy drug party on Haight Street in the Sixties, Rudolf Nureyey walked in and announced, "It's not a party if I'm not here." His partner. Margot Fonteyn, was hiding in another room. The police rounded up everyone, but - unable to identify the possessors of illegal drugs - released Nureyev and Fonteyn in time for them to

.How the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood developed at the turn of the century from sandy dunes on the outskirts of the city, how it became the mecca for flower children, and what happened after is the subject of Flower Power, a commercial tour by Rachel Heller, who lives in the Haight but is not an erstwhile hippie. The tour grew out of a final project she did for a graduate course in geography, and she is careful to point what is verifiable fact and what is hearsay.

Many of the houses in the area are beautifully restored Victorians, and she includes a brief introduction to San Francisco architecture in her tour. Allow more than two hours: Heller has a lot to say, and it's worth hearing. The price is \$15.

A COMPLETELY different kind of commercial tour is Java Walk, an introduction to San Francisco's coffee culture, in the North Beach area. Though Elaine Sosa is enthusiastic and tells some interesting anecdotes, much of the "tour" is spent in cafes a visitor could probably locate without a guide, and the coffee is not included in the \$15 fee.

Braving east Jerusalem to see some fine Christian sites

HAIM SHAPIRO

s recently as a century ago, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land was fraught not only with inconvenience but also with danger, since the pilgrim sometimes had to defend himself against brigands and ruffians.

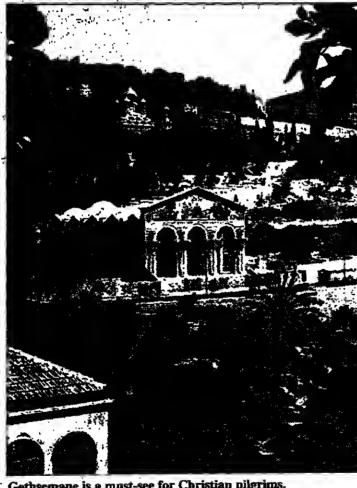
In most respects this is a thing of the past, but for those who would like to recreate the experience, we can recommend a visit to Gethsemane, just east of the Old City of Jerusalem, at the foot of the Mount of Ohives. The site is a must for Christian pilgrims and of considerable interest for non-

Christians too.

But, be warned. A priest who brings visitors there regularly. notes that during the course of one week alone a few people were pickpocketed, a guide was beaten up, and a woman was sexually assaulted. The priest, who wishes to remain nameless through fear that he too may become the vic-tim of an attack, says that even when they don't attack visitors, the vendors often intimidate visitors and curse guides who don't do what they want.
This is a pity, since the site is

well-worth visiting. In Hebrew, Gat Shmanim means "oil press". (This is traditionally a place where olive trees flourished.) The tourist guides claim that some of the olive trees there date from the time of Jesus, but even if this is not so, the huge twisted trees do convey a feeling of spirituality. According to some accounts, the trees were fertilized by the blood from the sacrifices in the Temple, which flowed down into the valley from the Temple Mount

Almost hidden in the valley is the Tomb of the Virgin, a church which is as impressive inside as it is inconspicuous outside. The church is an almost untouched Crusader structure, with a fine entrance arch and a series of steps going down to the tomb itself. A myriad oil lamps add a



Gethsemane is a must-see for Christian pilgrims.

note of antique mystery not often found in churches in the Holy

Purther up the hill is the Church of the Agony, also known as the Church of All Nations. The church itself is relatively modern, having been built in 1924, and the Byzantine remains alongside are barely visible. But it is in the garden leading to the church that some of the finest old olive trees may be seen.

Just above this church, a narrow road up the Mount of Olives leads to the Russian Church of the Ascension with its distinctive gold onion domes. The church may have been built only in the 19th century, but its architecture and the icons within give it an exotic appeal. There is also a particularly fine view of the Temple Mount from its balcony.

For those who wish to visit despite the vendors, who mainly cluster at the entrance to the Church of the Agony, our anonymous priest has some advice. He says not to take any valuables. especially money and passports. but to leave them all on the bus. Women, he says, should never go by themselves and should not wander away from the group. And on no account, he says, should visitors get involved in a conversation with the vendors.

Dutch expected to pour in to watery attraction

istorians believe that disastrous floods and epic bat-Titles against water have helped forge the careful, diligent, hardworking side of the Dutch

So, on the face of it, a tourist attraction which involves placing people in the path of 80,000 litters of seething water and blasting -them with storm-force winds should be enough to put most Dutch people off. Not at all, say the people behind

প্ৰোলালে সন্ধানীয়াই জিল্পান স্কল্পান

KEIRON HENDERSON

"Holland Experience." a hightech tourist attraction expected to draw 350,000 people a year when it opens later this year.

We're building the attraction right in the center of Amsterdam and we expect that 60 percent of the visitors will be Dutch," said Stephan Schoor, for Holland Experience, which is backed by a number of Dutch companies. Schoor explained that the attrac-

المعارض المناسب والمراجع والمستول المتاليوس

tion will offer more than just the flood, giving visitors a lightning "virtual tour" of the Netherlands using screens and sound effects to

simulate a flower market, a fish-

ing trip, and other Dutch scenes. But the bursting dike should be the main attraction, something that horrifies and exhilarates as well as stirs memories of the February 1995 floods when the country beld its breath and prayed that its network of creaking dikes (Reuter)

Adria's message: Slovenia is at peace EL AL is now offering coupons

HAIM SHAPIRO

SLOVENIA'S national air-line Adria, which bas resumed flights to Israel after a four-year interruption, is one message - there is no war in Slovenia.

Slovenia - the northernmost of the former Yugoslav republics, bordering on Austria. Italy and Croatia - is said to have an Alpine terrain much like that of Austria. The current round-trip fare to Ljubljana is \$470, but Natour is offering week-long ski packages for about \$700.

THE EIN Gedi Spa is currently offering a visit to the spa, with lunch and a guided tour of its botanical garden and cactus farm, for NIS 70 per person. For the adventurous, a similar package, for NIS 65, includes a jump on the kibhutz omega cable instead of lunch. Discounts for children range from 20 to 50 percent, depending on age.

FOR PESSAH, the glan kosher

★ Unbeatable offers to Eilat

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trying to convey to the public Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel is tour, which costs £21, includes plus VAT per night for a couple and \$179 plus VAT for two children in a separate room. The price, for a minimum of seven nights, is for half board, including the seder meal.

THOSE SEEKING a different kind of Pessah break might try Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar's 18-day outing to Papua-New Guinea and the Philippines. The price is \$5,995.

MORE MODEST Pessah outings are being offered by Arkia. including a three-night package to Cyprus for \$365, or six nights in Rhodes, Crete, or Santorini, with prices starting at \$529.

THOSE SEEKING the springtime in England can see William Wordsworth's "host of golden daffodils," which are the focus of a series of one-day tours throughout April for visitors to England's Lake District. The

tury romantic poet. For information call (0044) 15394 45161. CARTA HAS published a new road atlas of Israel (in Hebrew) which indicates the areas of Palestinian Autonomy. The 90page atlas, on heavy paper with a spiral binding, also has maps of Jerusalem. Tel Aviv and

Haifa. The atlas sells for NIS

excursion tickets and available for \$90 to other passengers. ALITALIA HAS a vacation

on the German railways for past

sengers traveling there. The coupons, valid for round-trip

travel from the airport to any-

where in Germany, are tree to

first- and business-class passen-

gers and those on five-day

package with the price of the round-trip flight to Italy and a six-night stay starting at \$649 in Florence, \$561 in Rome, and \$577 in Sorrento. Weekend excursions are also available.

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Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

Monday March 18 LIVING IN THE DESERT

Survival in the desert depends on adaptation to the environment. From the Beduin to futuristic cities, this tour will expose us to the culture, the challenges, the human and wildlife elements. Shouldn't be missed.

NIS 175 (including lunch). Tour guide: YONI SHAPIRO REDISCOVERING CAESAREA Thursday

March 28

You may have been before but using new archeological methods, Herod's town has been rediscovered. He'd be happy to see it today. The beautiful bathing house, the hippodrome, the baths,

the imperial storage rooms Herod's temple, and

NIS 155 (including lunch).
Tour guide: Archeologist AVNER GOREN

Saturday April 13

THE CAPITAL'S WOMEN

This Saturday morning walking tour features the women in our life. They've left their mark on the streets, the buildings and our history. From Heleni Hamalka, to Elizabeth Alexandrovitch, to Lea Abushdid to Anna Ticho. You'll meet them and more on an easy three hour walk. We meet in Jerusalem **NIS 55**

Tour guide: Frances Oppenheimer

The tour price for March 18 and 28 tours, includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pickup and return, drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:

SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem, 91074. Tel 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Ask for Romit or Tami.

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THEJERUSALEM

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A question of safety

GREER FAY CASHMAN

▼ IVEN RECENT events in England's capital, the question put by Grapevine to John Chalstrey, the Lord Mayor of London, was just too irresistible. Is it safe for Israelis to visit London? "It's safer than it is in this country," he chuckled, noting that he had brought one of his personal bodyguards with him.
"Not that I need him here," hizzoner hastened to add. The said bodyguard, Brian Kay, bearing a sword and dressed in a uniform, the style of which dates back to the time of King Charles II, excited the attention of photographers wherever be went.

One of 63 musketeers of the City of London warranted by the Queen. the bemedaled Kay, who was previously a colonel in the army, is a sergeant in the musketeers. "You don't get many colonels that finish up as sergeants," be said at a cock-tail reception bosted at the Tel Aviv Hilton hy Gad Propper, chairman of the Israel-British Chamber of

Chalstrey, who came to Israel at the head of a top-notch City of London Financial Services delegation, was accompanied by his wife Aileen, Sir Peter Levene. the Sheriff of the City of London. and Dr. George Remington who has special responsibility for health matters on the Israel-Britain Business Council.

Also here from London was Shlomo Maoz, former economics editor at The Jerusalem Post and now minister for economic affairs at the Israel Embassy.

SPEAKING IN serious vein about security in London, Chalstrey said that security had been upgraded by sophisticated surveillance methods which make it possible to identify everyone who comes into the City, The upgrading of security. he noted, had been introduced prior to the recent IRA bomhings, because with 547 foreign hanks in the City of London, "we're the financial

REFORM

(Continued from Page 7)

"I complained to Uri Ariel about

the matter several times," said Levy.

"I never received an answer. But for

me, no answer was just a diplomatic

way of telling me things weren't

going to change." Levy quit the coun-

Amos Tartman was a founder of the

council, and remains on good person-

al terms with the council leaders. But.

like Levy, as the council became

more established, he found himself

It was in Tartman's hometown that

the Yesha Council's general assembly

decided in December 1993 to hold

elections and democratically choose

among the "outsiders."

Former Ma'aleh Adumim mayor

favoring the areas they came from."



London's Lord Mayor John Chaistrey (center) and Oded Lifschitz of the Hilton (left) test the sharpness of musketeer Brian Kay's sword.

capital of Europe." The benefit of the increased security measures, Chalstrey added, is that there has been a fall-off in crime, because criminals don't want to risk being photographed.

WITH MORE resources at their disposal than regular mortals, royals are no less prone than the rest of us, to being caught up in the world of make believe. Take for instance, Prince Abdullah of Jordan, an avid Star Trek fan since childhood. During a recent visit to the US, the 34-year-old prince, who happens to be commander of the Jordanian Special Forces, fulfilled a lifetime amhition by getting to see an upcoming episode of the show while it was

heing taped, But better than that, according to the February 17 issue of TV Guide. the prince was invited to make a guest appearance as a medical officer on the star fleet. Though it was hrief, non-speaking part, for Abdullah it was a dream come true, "I would have been thrilled just to visit the set, but this is too much," be said, adding that when

a new leadership. Nothing ever came

Since the explosive 1993 general

meeting, at which grass-roots council members demanded changes from

the executive, the calls for a democ-

ratic upheaval on the council have

died down. Today, even settlement

movement critics agree the time is not right for council elections, just

months before the national elections.

was also an attempt by several Likud

settlement leaders to hring about

reform in the council. But then, like

today, the demand for change was put

off because of concern that making

come out that there was a break in the

ranks," Tartman said. Yesha contin-

ues to put off reform for the same rea-

"Our higgest fear was that it would

waves would backfire.

Tartman recalled that in 1990 there

of the decision.

he was in the army, he was stuck in the desert for a year-and-a-half.
"All we had was a TV monitor and VCR. I brought along my video collection of the original series and watched it every night." The collection will now be enhanced by a very special tape,

INDUSTRY AND Trade Minister Micha Harish, who laid to rest the charge that, unlike women, men are not judged by their appearances. doesn't seem to be faring too well in pre-election surveys despite his change of image. Guided hy bohemian designer Ynval Caspin towards more colorful and youthful attire. Harish would be doing much hetter if he had to depend only on members of the local film industry whose financial resources have improved enormously since he

came into office. Harish this week secured approval for the creation of a \$50 million fund to encourage quality Israeli productions - \$25 million to be allocated by the government and matching funds by overseas co-production investors. An-

nouncing the fund's establishment at the annual Mickey Alhin memorial awards for scriptwriters at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, Harish came in for high praise from Albin's widow Galia Albin, who heads the Friends of the Tel Aviv Cinematheque and who also sits on a comminee appointed by Harish to determine the money-making potential of Israeli films, many of which are screened at international festivals. Albin, who has been behind an advertising campaign to replace Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahn with Dan Meridor. had no such conflict in commending Harish who three nights later also came in for accolades from Judy Shalom-Nir-Mozes, wife of Likud MK Silvan Shalom.

PRIZE WINNING actress Gila Almagor, who "emceed" the Mickey Albin awards, read a syn-opsis of Yitzhak Goren's winning script in the TV drama category and observed that there was a female lead role lonking for a player. Goren, who makes no secret of his belief in nepotism, quickly disabused Almagor of any move in that direction. The part, he declared, has already heen reserved for his wife

BUT ALMAGOR may have higger fish to fry. The Tel Aviv Cinematheque enjoys the support of some of the leading movers and shakers in the US film industry. One of the most influential of them all, Disney president Michael Eisner, is scheduled to visit in September, according to

THE YOUNGEST contestant in the Knesset race is Yariv Adin. The 22-year-old, long-haired judo exponent who is running in the Labor primaries, is the youngest ever would-be MK. If he gets in and stays in, he may well break the 41-year parliamentary service record of Tewfik Toubi. Adin is young enough to notch up a half century career in

of the Yesha Council obtained by the Post show an organization in which nearly half of its income goes to

receives from the settlements - over NIS 1 million in 1994 - and supporters here, including national camp parties: the Likud, NIS 64,000; Isomet NIS 32,500; the National Religious Party, NIS 21,000; and Yi'ud, NIS 4,500.

The council, with fewer than 10 staffers, had NIS 2,746,530 in expenses in 1992. Of that amount, means that if the council employed 10 staffers at the time, an average monthly salary would have been over NIS 10,000. Another NIS 411,896, went to automobile upkeep and travel expenses, and another NIS 80,337 to "administrative costs." An outlay of NIS 27,205 is listed for

As for activities, there were two major outlays that year: NIS 295,946 for public relations and NIS

256,033 for advertising.
That adds up to NIS 551,979 being spent on actual activities and more than NIS 1.7m. on overhead. This ratio has not changed. The only difference is the overall Yesha Council budget, plus funds raised by Diaspora Jews, has grown as serious questions remain as to what is being done with that money.

B.H. done with that money.

(Continued from Page 7)
Development Fund, The Yesha Council is openly trying to crush ICDF, because it sees the group as a

threat to its own fund-raising efforts.

The warning came after Yesha campaign. The council denies, howsmear tactics against Prime Minister Shimon Peres, as reported hy Channel 2 this week.

Council spokesman Aharon money to push its political agenda, as both the bulk of local and foreign

INTERNAL FINANCIAL records

there is no sure proof?

will not concede that it is wrong.

Mrs Weissman poses no danger to anyone.

on to commit further crimes.

DONATIONS salaries and administrative expenses, Here, the figures exclude funds raised abroad, and reflect funding it

The authorities, meanwhile, are beginning to catch up with the Yesha Council. The Interior Ministry this week issued a stern warning to the council that it is forbidden to use donations from Jewish communities in the territories for the apcoming election campaign.

actively backing the Likud's election ever, that that campaign includes

Domb said the ministry had nothing to worry about, because the council does not use money it receives from the local and regional councils for political purposes. If Domh was indeed telling the truth, which Yesha Council sources say he is not, this would mean the organization has no contributions go only to "humani-tarian development" of the settle-

Nothing like a little religion around election time

H, what a tangled weh they weave when there's a haredi voter to deceive. Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu this week "decided" on May 28 as election day, though both knew the real date will be June 4, just as both knew the religious parties were worried about the conflict of Shavuot observances with any May date.

By then bowing to haredi reli-gious concerns, Peres could appear magnanimous, and Bihi can pose as the one who persuaded him to do so. Neat!

Haredi and religious parties have never been as popular as they are now - election time. Unless it was last election time. Their voters are a recognized

force and courting them has become a near full-time preoccupation of both large parties. In the effort, even some old political dogs learn new tricks. The voting pattern of the haredi

sector is an enigma to the heads of the two large parties. Both have their best experts trying to figure out what makes this elusive public tick; what special codes, language, and/or approach might slip a political message across the divide.

Labor's experts were advising the party to note haredi disapproval of adultery. Notices pinned up in haredi strongholds like Jerusalem and Bnei Brak might target Bihi and Tsomet leader Rafael "Raful" Eitan with sly hints. Then there is Likud's recently recruited star. Itzik Mordechai, also possibly "living in sin.

Love all, hut it's still advantage Likud in the Haredi Open. Likud knows most haredim will

never vote for Labor. They will remind them why with counternotices against "demon" Peres, 'notorious" gay-rights activist Yael Dayan, and, by association, that perennial gift from the secular gods, Shulamit Aloni.

OF KIPPOT AND QUOTES Labor chose haredi public-relations expert David Zilberschlag of Bnei Brak to spearhead the drive into the haredi camp and to keep Peres advised on the finer nuances of haredi etiquette. Zilberschlag orchestrated May of Ehud Olmert's triumphant assault on Jerusalem's haredi fortress and he boasts open access to the

greatest Torah sages.

Zilberschlag advised Peres to resist those corny temptations to don a kippa or quote hiblical proverbs when haredi leaders are in the vicinity. When haredim speak to secular power, he suggested, only actions speak hack like housing benefits and religious legislation.

Sound advice but, alas, rumors of Zilberschlag's close relations with Kach strongman Baruch Marzel quickly stirred agitation in the Labor fold. MK Yael Dayan demanded that Lahor secretarygeneral Nissim Zvilli investigate how the services of such a person were contracted.

Inquiries about Zilberschlag at the Prime Minister's Office this week met with hlank denials. Sorry, who?

Peres has no campaign adviser in the haredi sector. No such number. No such name.

MICHAL YUDELMAN



David Zilberschlag: After being kicked out of Labor, he made a quick switch to Likud.



Eliezer 'Moddy' Zandberg 'forgot' that his party does not recognize the PLO. (Isaac Harari)



'advertising' Coca Cola during his Torah lessons. (Eliahu Harati)

But journalists didn't need to organize a search party. The mysterious Zilberschlag surfaced a few days ago in ... Likud campaign headquarters. Zilberschlag apparently suf-

fered threats and pressures from right-wing circles for agreeing to work with Labor and decided to defect to chez Bibi.

Urgently wanted: haredi campaign adviser for Labor. Kippa and biblical quotes essential.

THINGS GO BETTER WITH...

Like Coke, things might go better with secular campaign strategists if they took note of some. odd "behavior patterns" demonstrated by Shas's spiritual mentor. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Yosef has lately taken to recommending certain products during his Torah lessons. Shas leaders vehemently reject the word 'advertising.'

Television's Mabat news program this week showed Yosef urging his students to "drink Coca-Cola, it's the taste of life" during a lesson.

On the program, a haredi mar-

keting agent took credit for "arranging" that Yosef would unter the phrase, apparently part of a deal for Coca-Cola buying advertising space in Shas's news-paper, Yom Hashishi.

returned with a sound bite from one of Yosef's satellite Torah lessons. The bite recommended a certain brand of matza.

Later in the week, Mabar

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Daniel Fuchs

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Shas MKs furiously denied it was a new phenomenon of sponsored Torah.

Chairman Arych Deri said "certain political elements are terrified of Shas's huge influence in such wide circles. Hence they never stop taking things out of context and distorting them."

OFF THE HOOKERS Tsomet's alliance with Likud

has wrought a religiously miraculous change in Raful. Once known for his anti-clerical principles, the stocky Raful this week nipped smartly up on the tightrope that divides his past utterances from his political future, to the entertainment of many haredim.

Raful didn't bother to show up for the Knesset vote on the bill he himself initiated to legalize pros-

The bill, needless to say, an anathema to all religious parties, was swiftly dispatched to preelection oblivion by a majority of both government and opposition

But Shas wasn't about to let the acrobatic Raful off the bookers so easily. Aryth Deri noted sarcasti-cally that, "while one should not scoff at those who repent [hozrim bitshuva] or remind them of their sins, a person cannot make a mockery of the haredi public and talk of preserving the status quo [a line Raful agreed to in joining Likud] while at the same time proposing such a hill."

Has Raful indeed seen the light so quickly? Or did he just forget to come to the vote?

It's probably a memory thing, for he also had some trouble remembering Tsomet's ideology on Channel 2's Yoman Shishi where he vehemently denied clauses in his party's platform relating to veshiva draft evasion,

and religious coercion. "It's not in the platform! It's not in the platform," thrudered Raful in answer to every question, even when the interviewers shoved the relevant official texts under his

FOLLOW THE LEADER Leadership does indeed set an example for the young. Tsomet MK Eliezer "Moddy" Zandberg displayed some Rafulian forgetfulness when he took off on an MKs' mission to Tunis to meet top Palestinian National Council and Palestinian Authority offi-

Had Zandberg forgotten that Tsomet and Likud are against meeting PLO leaders and opposed to the Osio agreements?

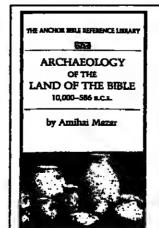
As Tsomet MKs howled for Zandberg to be booted from his post as the party's Knesset faction chairman, young Zandberg was unfazed.

"I don't understand what all the fuss is about," he said. "I don't see these meetings indicating my recognition of the PLO or the Oslo agreements."

Try telling that to Rais Arafat when you don't meet him. In an even more impressive impression of Raful, Zandberg also back-flipped our of support-ing a Knesser bill he himself had presented to cancel the archaic law hanning television broadcasts hy politicians for 30 days before

This has nothing to do with his recognition of Likud's opposition to this legislation, of course. Or that it might give coalition lead-ers an edge in the election campaign.

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Tel. 03-5259333, 052-753911 Auction No. 38 Judaica and Israeli Books and Objets d'Art Tuesday, February 20, 1996, at 7 p.m. Sale items may be viewed on: Sunday, February 18, 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday, February 19, 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Auction Half, 32 Pinsker Street, Tel Aviv, cor. 27 Allenby

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THE STATE OF ISRAEL VS. WEISSMAN

I am very distressed by the verdict against Mrs Weissman.

How can she, an elderly woman, have been convicted, when

In my opinion, the prosecution has put itself in a corner and

Certainly, there is reasonable doubt. Many serious criminals

are not convicted or have their sentences shortened, and go

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

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POLITICIANS have long flirted with the journalistic occupa-tion. Already in the time of the American Revolution, figures like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton were deeply involved in the publication and editorial work of such publications as the Gazette of the United States, the Philadelphia Aurora and the New York Evening Post.

As expected, these and a piethora of other publications became deeply embroiled in burning political issues, unabashedly taking sides and pro-moting partisan agendas. Morally and professionally there is nothing wrong with this sort of combination, provided the publication makes no secret of its true colors, and so long as its reporting and editorializing are clearly separated.

In this sense, the Davar daily
which was founded by Labor leader Berl Katzenelson and later edited by future president Zalman Shazar - was part and parcel of a reputable tradition. Unlike its image, the paper, which has been on its deathbed all week, was no Pravda; surely, its two generations of writers and editors identified with a well-known party line, but they still met high reporting standards, gave voice to their opponents' views and remained well above the fray of the nasty mnckraking battles in which the large Hebrew dailies have recently engaged.

However, as a product, Davar loomed as yet another tragic

Siemens interested in supplying Bezeq

A delegation from the German electronics giant Siemens is interested in being a tertiary supplier of switching systems to Bezeq. A delegation

from the company met yesterday with senior Bezeq officials in Tel

Aviv. Siemens would like to participate in tenders for optic networks

Aviv. Siemens would nike to participate in tenders for optic networks and to integrate a new telephone exchange in Bezeq's infrastructure. It is offering Bezeq wireless access equipment suitable for areas with rapid development and a crowded population. Over the past two years, Bezeq bought DM 30 million worth of radio, telephone, and other equipment.

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monument to socialist disrespect for market realities and

fiscal responsibility. First, its political affiliation automatically distanced Davar from large segments of the mar-ket. Secondly, with no functioning board of directors and a glar-ing lack of andited reports, it accumulated an estimated \$3.4 million in annual losses. Finally, much like Pravda in its time, most of Davar's circulation was artificial, with thousands of copies distributed free in kibbutzim, Bank Hapoalim branches, state companies, government offices, municipalities, Kuppat Holim centers and Histadrut-owned factories.

Thus, a short-sighted party apparatus did to Davar the worst marketing disservice possible: they made its newsstand buyer look like an idiot and they made the product itself feel worthless, when it actually had journalistic value. And so daily circulation naturally plummeted over the past two decades from 45,000 to fewer than 10,000. Understandably, with this kind of distorted market share and low self-esteem, advertisers shunned

Now, a new Histadrut leadership did the right thing by deciding to shut it down. Ironically, Davar died the same week that Yediot Aharonot editor Moshe Vardi resigned due to his indictment for alleged wiretapping. Which should remind us all that solid balance sheets - like Yediot's - aren't everything; however, as the case of Davar attests, they are essential.

Balancing 'Davar' Sheer seriously considers becoming TASE chairman

INDUSTRIAL Development Bank Chairman Arye Sbeer plans to take action to attract foreign investors and accelerate the privatization process if he accepts the role as new chairman of the Tel Aviv Stnck Exchange, a source close in the

banker said yesterday. The source said Sheer is serinusly considering the position offered to him several days ago by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Securities Authority Chairman Arye Minkevich, Sheer's Sheer's GALIT LIPKIS BECK

appointment is also supported by beads of the large banks, including Bank Hapoalim chairman of management Amiram Sivan and Bank Leumi Chairman Eitan Reif.

According to the source, Sheer plans to be an active chairman. The source said Sheer considers the stock exchange the most important tool to the econnmy. Based on Sheer's past experience, the snurce abrand a forecasted the putential ufferings.

chairman will place a strong emphasis un expanding the variety of services to foreign investors.

Sheer, whn is a lawyer and economist, was appointed chairman of Industrial Development Bank six years agn. Before that he served as Ministry of Industry and Trade accountant-general between 1982-1989. In this pusition. Sheer was responsible for the government's raising of capital abraad and also government

UKM secretaries now want kibbutz debts to banks probed

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE United Kibbutz Movement's (UKM) newlyelected secretaries are in favor of checking the kibbutzim's debts to the banks, in contrast to the Movement's strong objections during the last few

The UKM yesterday appointed Zvilli Ben-Moshe and Dudi Helman as secretaries of the movement, in place of Eric Reichman who recently resigned.

The new secretaries said it may be necessary to examine kibbutz debts to the banks and also help the Kibbutz Headquarters Association, a private association set up specifically to examine the kibbutz debts.

Up until now, the UKM strongly objected to the Kibbntz Headquarters, which commissioned the Proceacia report which suggests the kibbutzim's debts to the banks were inflated. The UKM previously expressed fears that checking kibbutz debts may lead to the cancellation of the kibbutz debt arrangement which is very close to being

On Sunday, the kibbutzim, Treasury and banks are expected to hegin marathan talks in an attempt to sign the kibbutz debt arrangement by the end of the month. The agreement involves write-offs totaling about NIS 6 billion for 127 kibbutzim.

Russia offers new diamond deals to De Beers

MOSCOW (Reuter) - Russia has offered two agreements on diamond trade to South African diamond group De Beers, instead of one currently in use, which will be discussed at talks in Moscow after February 20, a senior industry official said yesterday.

We offered them a new flexible scheme involving two agreements instead of one," said a top official at Russia's Committee for Precious Metals and Stones.

He said the first framework agreement aimed to regulate the

MAGAZINE

principles of global diamond trade. where Russia wants a bigger role. while the actual new trade agreement would be signed with Almazy Rossii Sakha, Russia's biggest diamond producer.

"The framework deal regulates basic principles to provide stability 31. . on the world diamond market. It is not a trade accord. We suggested sells 95 percent of its rough gems that the trade accord would be through the CSO. Russia is besigned with Almazy," said the official, but gave no further details.

Russia is due to hold a new round of talks with De Beers on

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future cooperation on the world diamond market in Moscow after February 20. In talks last month, the sides extended their cooperation agreement to March 1 - the second extension of a deal originally due in expire on December

-Under the current deal, Russia lieved in want the right in sell more of its uncut gems - some say 25 percent - outside the CSO.

De Beers wants to keep Russia's official exports and production under control and to prevent "leakage" of diamonds from Russia to the world markets, estimated at several bundred million dollars a

The official said he boped at least the framework agreement could be signed at the new round of talks.

Ruskomdragmet ufficials said earlier this week that any deal Russia signs with De Beers must nnt burt its diamond-culting

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Koor Capital Markets has signed an agreement to purchase total ownership and control of Haron and Levy from Securitas and its subsidiary Tason Investments for NIS 6.5 million. Haron and Levy is a veteran brukerage firm, which is also a

member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The company manages security investment portfolios and mutual funds. According to the agreement, Securitas will be entitled to additional payments in the future, in accordance with the volume of trading on the TASE and the number of portfulios

that will remain with Haron and Levy. Koor Capital Markets is owned and controlled by Koor.

which has a 75.1 percent stake in the company, and Maritime

Bank which owns the remaining 24.9 percent.

Israel Electric Corporation announced yesterday that it will make no agreement with Mid Atlantic as an outside power provider until after its exclusive license has expired in March 1996 and the sector reorganized.

IEC said it is continuing negotiations with US firm Mid Atlantic to be its first major outside contractor. While negotiations have not yet been concluded, IEC's board of directors said yesterday that several interim decisions had been made and that it viewed favorably the association with Mid

Any agreement with Mid Atlantic would be done in accordance with the reorganization of the electricity sector. Mid Atlantic has proposed to provide IEC with electric power by erecting an oil-shale powered station, producing 150 megawatts, at Mishor Rotem in the Negev. Investment in the station would be \$300 milling.

IEC said that several questions have been raised during the course of negotiations. Talks will resume after Mid Atlantic answers those questions.

Scitex boss: Company needs to regain profitability

RACHEL NEIMAN

SCITEX CEO Yoav Chelouche said the company's highest priority was to return its largest division, renamed the Graphic Arts Group, to profitability.

The company on Wednesday reported 1995 fourth-quarter net losses of \$15.9 million from net gains of \$20m. in the comparable period. Revenues were \$191.75m., down from \$194.18m.

Annual net losses were \$34.5m. from net profits of \$63.75m. Revenues for 1995 were \$728.9m., from \$704.13m.

One-time costs associated with Scitex's reorganization, announced in November, were \$22m. General and administrative costs rose to \$117.6m. from

Scitex further announced yesterday that subsidiary Scitex Digital Printing had closed a \$35m. deal to supply print engines and other components to a major business-forms manufacturer in Japan. The order, a new, application for Scitex technology, is the largest single order in the company's history.

'Germany has hard task on EMU goal'

ISBACE MONEY MARKETS

FRANKFURT (Reuter) - Germany will have to make a big effort to reduce its budget deficit in time to qualify for European monetary union in 1999, in the face of a weak economy and high unemployment, the Bundesbank

said yesterday. The deficit rose to 3.6 percent of GDP in 1995, well above the 3% maximum set by the Maastricht Treaty, and would remain little changed at 3.5% in 1996 according to a government fore-

cast, the bank said in its February

Despite growing worries that the economy is slowing sbarply, the Bundesbank held its official interest rates unchanged on Thursday, in line with economists' expectations.

The discount and Lombard rates remain at 3% and 5% respectively and the central bank's main money market rate, the socalled repo, was beld steady at

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The U.S. Embassy; the U.S. Consulate, Jerusalem; The AACI; Democrats and Republicans Abroad (Israel) and The Jerusalem Post invite you to attend a series of

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The sessions will take place as follows: March 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the U.S. Embassy , 71 Hayarkon St. Tel Aviv

March 27, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., at the AACI, 28 Shmuel Hanavi St. Netanya March 28, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., at the U.S. Consulate, 27 Nablus Rd. Jerusalem March 28, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., at the AACI, 6 Mane St. Jerusalem

FPCA cards for requesting an absentee ballot may be obtained at all U.S. consulates and all AACI regional offices, during regular office hours. For further details, call your nearest U.S. Consulate

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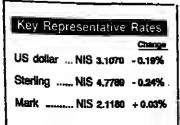
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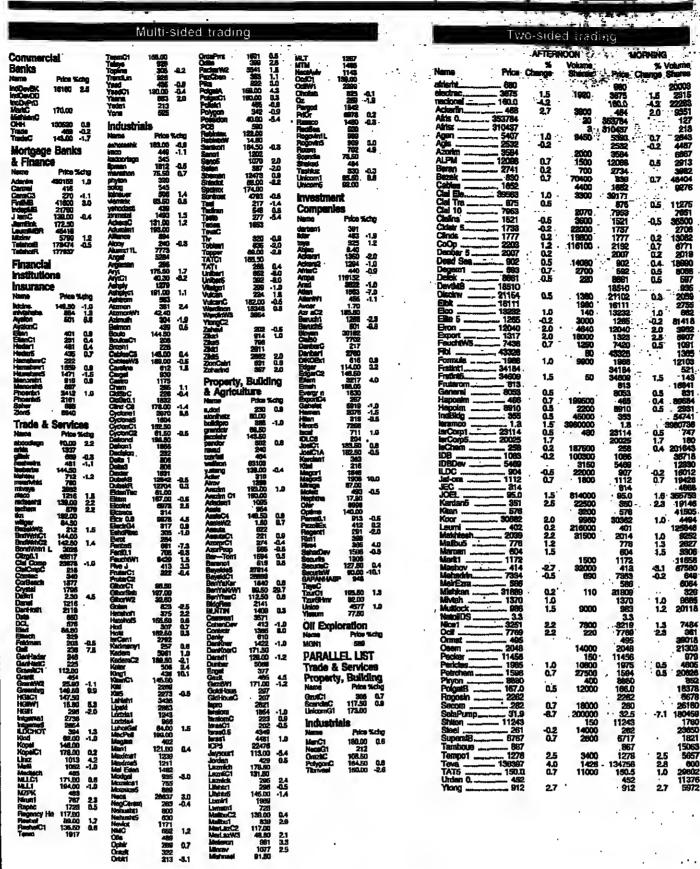
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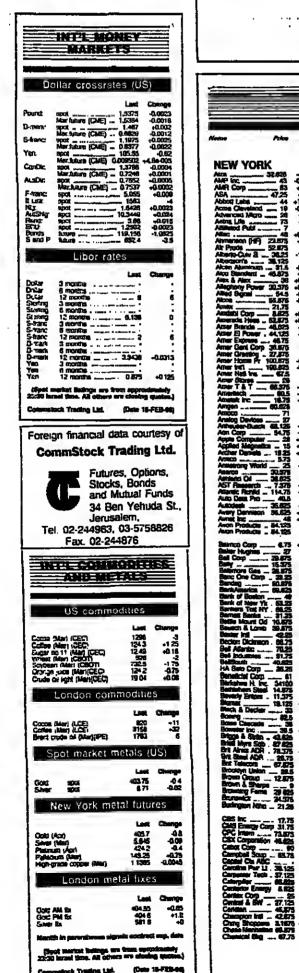
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TASE rises on last day of a down week TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ





STOCKS fell for the week amid concern inflation is rising, promoting worry the Bank of Israel will raise interest rates.

January's consumer price index rose 0.9% percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced after the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange had closed for the day.

"Everything will derive from this CPI," said Eli Nahum, the head of trading at the Tel Aviv investment firm Zannex Securities

Nahum said that analysts were using a 1% increase as a "balancing line." If the CPI increase had been above 1%, he said, it might have brought "back the bears." After an increase of below 1%, 'the market may turn up in a sig-

nificant way" next week. Yesterday share prices rose, following gains Wednesday on Wall Street and gains yesterday on European exchanges. Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd. rose 4% after gaining in New York.

The Maof Index rose 0.92% to 212.02 and the Two-Sided Index rose 0.91% to 203.30. In the week, the Two-Sided Index fell 1.4% and the Maof Index fell 1.3%.

Of 997 issues trading across the exchange yesterday, three shares rose for every two that fell. Some NIS 61.5 million worth of shares traded, NIS 36.4 million below yesterday's level and about NIS 30 million below this month's trading

"I wouldn't get too excited about price increases today, since there were no real volumes," said

Gains . yesterday also came as concern that the Central Bank would raise rates was somewhat

alleviated by a lower-than-expected M1 money supply increase of 1.1% in January from February, Nahum added.

Teva's gains in Tel Aviv followed increase in Teva's American Depositary Receipts, which rose in New York to 43% Wednesday from 42% Tuesday. Teva had fallen 4.4% in Tel Aviv from last Thursday through

Wednesday. Yesterday's gains came after Biocraft Laboratories announced it had received US Food and Drug Administration approval to manufacture a generic drug version of high blood pressure medication Captopril. Teva agreed to acquire Biocraft for \$288.9 million in stock last month.

The FDA approval said Nahum. "is a really positive sign for Teva. I don't think they will have to suffer before they make money from this company.

Teva's ADRs were up 1/2 in early trading.

Other gaining shares on the exehange included Koor Industries Ltd., which rose 2% as NIS 4.4m. worth of shares changed hands. Koor's ADRs were up 1/4 in early

Koor had fallen 1.3% in Tel Aviv from last Thursday through Wednesday.

Maof Index-listed banks rose yesterday after declining during the week amid news reports that kibbutzim may seek to reassess the debts they owe the banks.

Yesterday Bank Hapoalim BM rose 0.75% after falling 0.9% from last Thursday through Wednesday; Bank Leumi rose 0.25% after falling 2% during the same period.

FTSE 100 ends close ____to all-time high

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Renter) - Corporate activity helped lift the FTSE 100 to close to its previous all-time high levels yesterday, aided by inflation data which kept hopes alive of another cut in UK interest rates in the short term. The FTSE 100 closed 34.8 points up at 3.779.8.

FRANKFURT - Shares closed little changed showing little reaction to the Bundesbank keeping a firm hand on its key discount and Lombard rates. The DAX index nf 30 hlue-chip German shares closed bourse trade down 4.06 points at 2,423.01, or down 0.17 percent fur the session. Postbourse trade was minimal and the IBIS DAX index of electronically traded shares closed down 1.26 points at 2,426.51.

PARIS - Shares closed higher after having spent most of the day in alightly negative territory. Trading was temporary disrupted due to a halt in futures and options business following occupation of the Palais Brougniart Bourse building by staff of the Credit Foncier de France bank. The CAC-40 index closed up 7.83 at 1,964.21.

ZURICH - Shares eloaed a range-bound day with minor gains, swinging back into positive terrain towards the end of the session. Dealers said yesterday's rally in federal bond futures had little effect on the stock exchange. Trading was quiet in low volumes. The broad SPI added

2.60 points, or 0.12%, to 2,135.12 points.

TOKYO - Stocks ended modestly weaker, but off the day's lows, in lackluster trade. A com-Kubo which traders said implied a possible interest rate rise hit sentiment in the early afternoon, but the market's downside remained limited. The 225-share Nikkei average ended duwn

57.40 points at 20,886.19. HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks closed sharply higher in moderate trade, swept along by soaring index futures, players said. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index ended up 107.35 points at 11,471.81.

SYDNEY - Australian shares ended marginally lower as gains from earlier in the week were consolidated with a lack of leads to give a new direction. The all ordinaries index was 2.3 points lower at 2,298.5.

JOHANNESBURG - Snuth African shares ended hroadly firmer, with industrials boosted by a airing bond market and golds running up on a higher bullion price, dealers said. They said short covering and a return to the spot market after recent futures activity were driving gains. The correction seemed to be over and shares were seen continuing their uptrend. The all-share index closed up 76.6 points to 6.854.1, industrials gained 81.3 to 8,575.4 and the gold index added 52.2 to 1.800.

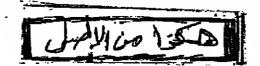
NYSE stocks continue to fall WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue- average fell 28.18 pnints tn chip stocks fell for the second straight session yesterday as investors cashed in more profits after the market's recent string of

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial 5,551.37, after Wednesday's drop of about 22 points.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances 12-10 on moderately active volume nf about 413 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

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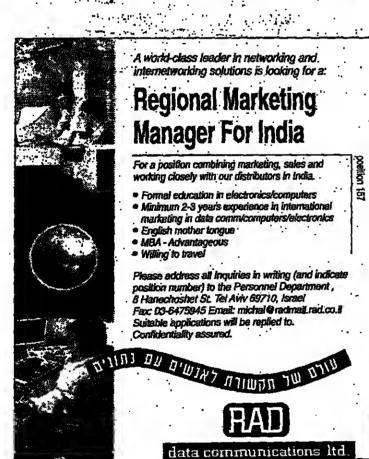
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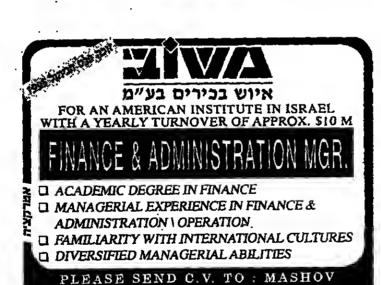
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91 Yehuda Hayamit, 682-2973.

Golani, Kitar Save, 618248.

Sialik, 872-1665.

midnight.

Hayam, 837-1472.

Jerusalem: Arnona, 9 Leib Yatte, 731901; Balsam, Safah e-Din, 272315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 610108; Oar

Tet Aviv: Pharmaxi, 41 Yimmeyahu, next

to Pe'er Cinema, 544-2050; Pe'er Market,

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Narkis, 9 Hatival

Netanya: Clal Pharm, 60 Binyamin,

Krayot area: Krayot, 1 Hahagana, Kiryat

Halfa: Derech Hayam, 209 Derech

Herzfiva: Clai Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6

Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzitya Pituan, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to

Upper Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev Halir

Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 706660; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 869744;

(day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din,

272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 810108;

Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.Tel

Aviv: Grusso, 27 Sheinkin, chr Yoset

Hanassi, 528-4791; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 41 Einstein, 641-3730; (evening, till

midnight) Superpharm Ramat Aviv. 40

Ra'enana-Kfar Sava: (dav) Super Pharm.

3 Ostshinsky, Klar Sava, 958889;

(evening) Kupai Holim Maccabi, 49

Netarrya: Center Pharm, 1 King David,

Krayot area: Superpharm, Hakiryon, 44

Hapelmah, Kiryal Bialik, 677-9320. Haifa: Carmell, 6 Ellahu Hanavi (Paris

Einstein, Ramat Aviv. 641-3730.

Hahavii, Ra'anana, 907736.

n: (day) Kupat Holim Clalit,

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Saturday, February 17

ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

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DYESHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life
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mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahalm, Jewish Quarler, Old City, Sun.-Thur.

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Friday, February 16

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6961113), Haifa 8672222, Beersheba 281129, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9988410, Kiar Sava 674555, Hadera

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5234816, 5449161 (men), Jerusak 255558, Haifa 8660111, Eliai 31977.

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6514111, 03-5461133 (also in Russian).

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DWELLINGS Sharon Area

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Responsibilities



Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir visits the Electric Corporation's Ashkelon power

Court cites procedural delays for freeing Alperon

EVELYN GORDON

lease from two previous jail

terms, and, according to police

intelligence, he centinued in nr-

ganize underworld activities from

his jail cell even during his most

The second parole board's rea-

sons - mainly that Alperon's two

daughters "need in know their

father" - did not nutweigh these

"This decision seems to me so

unreasonable that I had trouble

understanding haw the parole

hoard could have reached it,"

However, Bach and Mazza.

with Cheshin dissenting, said that

despite all this, Alperan had now

been out of jail for eight months.

due to the authorities' incompe-

tence: The state delayed for five

weeks before filing the petition.

and the court took another seven

months to hear it, despite repeat-

ed requests from the state for an

early hearing. Given this delay, it

is not possible to return Alperon

immediate danger, they said -

other factors, they said.

recent semence.

Cheshin wrote,

THE High Court of Justice yesterday declined to return leading underworld figure Nissim Alperon to prison, largely because of its own failure to hear the case

for seven months. Alperon was sentenced in 1991 to 63/3 years in prison on drug charges. After completing twnthirds of his sentence, he asked for parole, but the parole board turned him down in December 1994. He appealed to the Nazareth District Court, which also rejected his request last March, Last May, however, Alperon resubmitted his request in a different parole board, which, on May 31, decided to release him. On July 6, the state petitioned the

High Court against this decision. Justices Gavriel Bach, Eliahu Mazza and Mishael Cheshin all agreed the parole board's decision was so unreasonable that under normal circumstances, the court's intervention would have been justified. They noted that Alperon has racked up seven convictions on various charges over the past 20 years, accumulating 16 years' worth of to prison unless he constitutes an

He continued in a life of crime and there is no inolication that he even after being granted early re-

IF Prime Minister Shimon Peres

were to say he is not opposed to

the establishment of a Palestinian

state, support among the Pales-

tinians for the amendment of the

Palestinian Covenant would rise

significantly, a Palestinian poll-

kaki, head of the Center for Pal-

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VEHICLES

Sharon Area

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According to Dr Khalil Shi-

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to Executive Director

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does, since he has stayed out of Pollster: Peres's stand linked to changing Covenant estinian Research, polls revealed that some 70%-80% of the Pales-

tinian population would then support changing the document. Shikaki said that, on the day of the Palestinian elections, the number supporting such a mave had drapped to 51% from 56%

three months earlier. Batsheva Tsur

VEHICLES Haita and North

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"The state's delay is very sur-

prising, especially in light of the State Anomey's Office's convic-

tion that [Alperon] was a criminal

who, if released was likely to

endanger the public," Bach

wrote. He made no similar state-

ment about the cnurt's much

larger delay, hawever, saying

only that this was due to "various

pressures relating to the court's

ously attacked the majority deci-

sion. The court, he said, had the

"poor man and his pitiful family"

right in from of it, and its heart

was torn because the other side of

the scales seemed to contain only

such cold abstractions as "the

public good" or the need "to de-

ter criminals." However, he said,

the court was forgetting that the

other side of the scales also con-

tained the human misery of the

long line of victims Alperon had

Cheshin said. "We only hear the

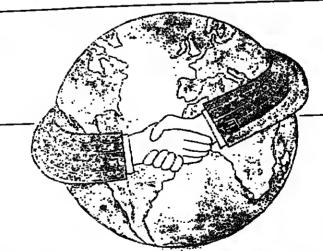
bitter fate of the criminal."

"We don't hear the victim,"

left behind him.

Cheshin, in his dissent, vigor-

workload."



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UK think-tank poll: Jewish identity weakens

One in three Jews no longer belongs to synagogue

LONDON (Reuter) - The first independent Jewish think-tank in Europe launched itself yesterday with a poll showing that almost half of Britain's male Jews are marrying outside their community.

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research said the survey was worrying for the future of the Jewish community, and it planned to take an active role in promoting changes in policies of leaders of the Jewish faith.

Britain has one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe – about 300,000, or half a percent of the population – hut the total has fallen by about a quarter since 1945.

The national survey of social and political attitudes of British Jews found that one in three no longer belonged to a synagogue, and more than two-thirds felt equally British and Jewish — or more British than Jewish.

"Years of speculation on these issues have been brought to an end by these findings, and they

are not good news for the maintenance of Jewish identity," said the institute's executive director, Antony Lerman. "Those who wish to preserve Jewishness and continuity must now realize that the time for softly, softly approaches to demands for plural-

ism and inclusivism has passed."

A spokesman for Britain's chief rabbi, Dr. Jonathan Sacks, said the survey "represents an enormous challenge to the community."

The poll, questioning over 2,100 people throughout Britain, found that 44 percent of Jewish men under the age of 40 were married to or living with non-Jewish partners.

This compared with 20 percent for the 60 to 70 age group and 20 to 25 percent for Jewish women.

The report said intermarriage was seen as one of the main reasons for Jewish demographic decline.

The report's co-author, Stephen Miller, dean of Social Sciences at London's City University, said the figures were worrying for maintaining "the integrity of the community."

He told a news conference that they were not far from "the shock USA statistic of around 52 perceot which caused British and American Jews to think about the nature of their future."

"Jews are becoming more ethnic and less religious in observance," Miller said. But a large number of those who married outside the faith were keen to keep a Jewish identity.

"While one-third do not belong to a synagogue, many maintain their identity in other ways they hold ceremonies without ritual; they practice but don't believe," the institute said.

Around 60 percent of respondents favored the Israeli government's approach to peace in the Middle East, compared with 68 percent of American Jews, and 69 percent felt that Israel should give up some land in exchange for

Helmets increase bikers' safety

JUDY SIEGEL

A GOVERNMENT educational campaign aimed at encouraging bicycle riders to wear safety helmets increased the percentage of helmet wearers from 7.9% to only 14.8%. Officials in the Health Ministry's bealth education department now think a law is needed to induce more cyclists to don the protective gear.

Department head Dr. Dov Tamir, who co-wrote an article about its survey of helmet use among cyclists in the February issue of the Israel Journal of Medical Science, said yesterday he will pursue the legislation option in the coming months.

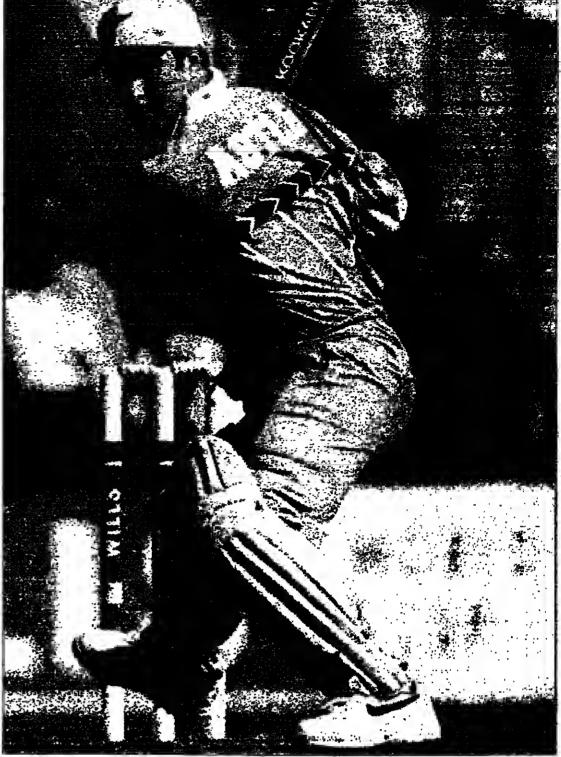
"In other countries, mandatory helmet laws have followed educational campaigns by a couple of years, but it would be a shame to wait for more youngsters to be injured," he said.

The upcoming elections complicates the matter, as MKs may be busy campaigning, but we hope to be able to explain the importance of such legislation."

An average of 20 Israelis are killed in bicycle accidents each year. About 1,000 are reported injured, 200 seriously and 800 mildly injured. Wearing a suitable helmet has been proven to reduce the risk of head injuries, which are the main type of bicycle-related damage.

After sending out observers to count how many cyclists in 15 towns wore helmets two years ago, the ministry and the Road Safety Administration launched a campaign of radio jingles, stickers, and newspaper ads costing a few hundred Ibousaod shekels (only a small part of it covered by the ministry).

The percentage of riders observed with belimets after the campaign doubled to an average of 14.9%.



HERE COMES TROUBLE - New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle is just one of the many obstacles
Holland faces tomorrow. (Reuter)

Jordan, Kuwait move toward reconciliation

AMMAN (AP) – Kuwait and Jordan have moved closer toward resuming normal ties, which were severely strained over Amman's pro-Iraq tilt during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a cabinet official said yesterday.

Information Minister Marwan Mouasher said a letter sent by Kuwait's Crowo Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Sabah to his Jordanian counterpart reflected a change in attitude toward Jordan, whose previous efforts to recoo-

cile with the Gulf emirate had been snuhbed.

Prince Hassan, the King Hussein's younger brother and heir apparent, received the letter Wednesday.

"The letter definitely indicated a real intention by the Kuwaitis to resume normal relations with Jordan," Mouasher told The Associated Press.

The letter was termed "very positive."

He said the leadership in Ku-

irate had wait "thinks that it is time to r

Kuwait and other Arab countries ostracized Jordan when King Hussein opposed the use of military force to evict his then closest ally, Saddam Hussein, from the Gulf emirate be invaded in August 1990.

On Sunday, King Hussein made his first official visit to Saudi Arabia in five years.

Oo his return, the king said that relations were back on track.

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World Cup Dutch debut likely to end in knockout

BARODA, India (Reuter) - The Dutch cricketers' World Cup debut tollionrow will be like "fighting a champioo in the ring" and opponeous New Zealand are likely to land the knockout punch.

Captain Steven Lubbers' team from the Netherlands faces a New Zealand side who opened the tournament on a high note when it beat England by 11 runs in its Group B match in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Lubbers, who has scored more runs in domestic cricket than any other Dutch player, said: "For Holland, it's like fighting a champion in the ring. You pick up the challenge. You are honored.

"We are prepared to give our best. I admit that .

New Zealand are very young and dangerous," he said ahead of the game in the city of Baroda which is noted for its royal history.

Lubbers said his team's main objective would be to limit New Zealand's scoring "otherwise you will end up chasing a massive total"

The New Zealanders, semilinalists at the last World Cup which they co-hosted with Australia four years ago, were spurred to success in Ahmedabad by a vibrant imings of 101 from opener Nathan Astle.

Glenn Turner, New Zealand's manager, coach and strategist, said: "We were expecting a big score from Nathan Astle and he did not let us down."

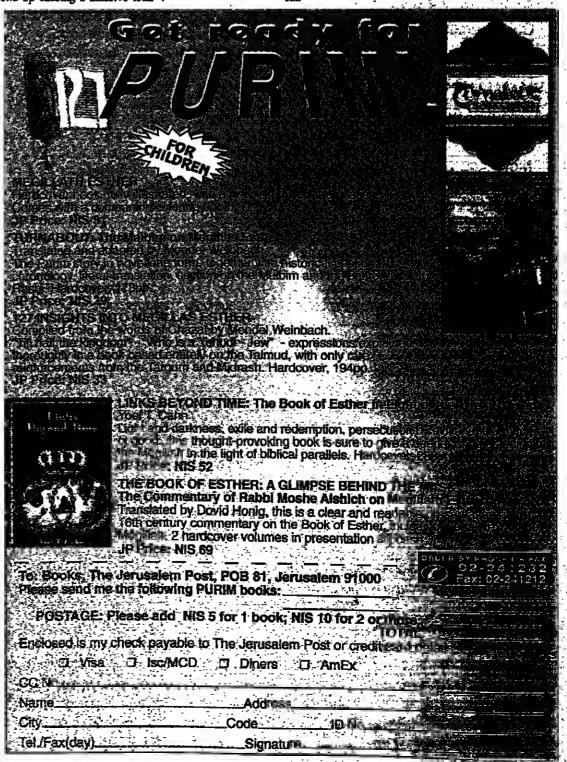
Turner said it was a great team effort that restrict-

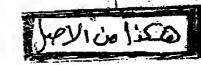
ed England, which finished on 228 for nine in reply to New Zealand's 239 for six. "The team's fielding lived up to our expecta-

tions," Turner added.

New Zealand may rest all-rounder Chris Cairns, who has just recovered from a calf injury, against the Netherlands and include off-spinner and useful batsman Dipak Patel.

Kenya-born Patel is a veteran of three World Cups, whose origins can be traced to the neighboring city of Surat in India's western state of Guja-





SPORTS B

The state of the s

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The Marie Comme

Gretzky may soon be traded

WAYNE Gretzky isn't much different from anybody else. He, along with the entire bockey. world, wants to know whether he will finish the season with the Los Angeles Kings

And Gretzky, just like everybody else, believes a trade is likely before the March 20 deadline. He doesn't know where, and he doesn't know when. A decision either way couldn't come soon

'Tm just a player it's out of my hands,' Gretzky said Wednesday night after the Kings' 2-2 tie with the Sabres in Buffalo. "I love L.A, and I like playing there, but obviously - by what's been going on - something will happen."

The rumor mill Wednesday had teams along two coasts and two countries interested in the Great One. Many believed a deal might be struck by the time he So far, nothing.

"I'll say it with complete sincerity," Gretzky said. "I know about as much as you guys. Right now, all I can do is play hockey and leave the rest of it to everyone else."

Gretzky, who will become a free agent after this season, was scratched from Wednesday; night's game against the Sabres with a hip pointer. The injury occurred in Tuesday's 9-4 loss to Detroit.

The New York Rangers and St. Lonis Blues have already expressed interest in the National Hockey League's career scoring leader. Other teams reportedly in the hunt are the Chicago Black-. hawks, Anaheim Mighty Ducks, . Philadelphia Flyers and Toronto Maple Leafs.

In New York, Gretzky's possible trade to the Rangers made headlines Wednesday.

"Gretzky-to-Rangers Talk May Not Be Just Rumors," The New York Times said. "Will NY Be Wayoe's-

World?" asked The New York Ray Ferraro and left wing Luc Playing in New York would of- . fer Gretzky a high-profile market still the property of the Los Anand a chance to play for a Stanley
Cup contender that includes forto say," Rangers spokesman Rob mer Edmonton teammates Mark Koch said.

Messier and Kevin Lowe. The

change that would send center

Rangers also are one of the few teams with enough money and trade bait to lure Gretzky But the team wasn't commenting Wednesday on a possible ex-

we are to have any chance of play."



GONE TOMORROW? Gretzky trade rumors abound, especially to New York.

Robitaille to Los Angeles.

"Right now, Wayne Gretzky is to say," Rangers spokesman Rob

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Boston 3, Hartford 0
Los Angeles 2, Buffulo 2
Philadelphia 4, Florida 2
Toronto 4, San Jose 3
Edmonton 3, Anakelm 2

EASTERN CONFERENCE

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WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Maccabi eliminated from European competition

Panathinaikos wins for first time in Tel Aviv

MACCAB! Tel Aviv bowed out of European competition last night, losing 86-79 to Panathinaikos for its third consecutive defeat at Yad Eliahu in the Club Championships.

Maccabi ends the final pool with a 6-8 record, while Panathinaikos, with a 9-5 mark, advances to the quarter-finals for the third consecutive season.

However, the Greeks failed to capture second place due to Real Madrid's victory over hosts Bolgona, which means that Panathinaikos wil not have the homecourt advantage in the best two-

of three quarter-finals, In that game, Real's Joe Arlauckas scored 63 points.

After Maccahi's loss, Pau-Orthez defeated visiting Cibona Zagreh 80-62, which meant that even if the Israelis had pulled off a victory, they would not have advanced.

But that does not excuse yet another collapse at the end of a home contest.

Tom Chambers, seconds hefore fouling out, connected on two free throws to give Maccabi a 72-69 advantage with only 4:30 remaining in the game.

But then Dominique Wilkins scored 11 of his 28 points in the last three minutes to lead Panathînaîkos on a 17-7 run lo close out the game and send the fans home disappointed once again.

BRIAN FREEMAN

Although Wilkins took charge down the stretch, it was Nikolaos Ekonomou who gave Maccabi trouble the entire game and gave Panathinaikos its first victory in six all-time championship encounters against Maccahi here.

He scored 35 points, including 6-7 from the three-point line, as Chambers was unable to control him on defense.

The tension of the evening was evident throughout the game, which was fast-paced and physical and included three technical fouls.

Maccahi surprisingly outrebounded the Greeks, despite the presence of 2.14-meter Stojan Vrankovic. But, as has been the case most of the season, Maccahi was unable to come up with the big plays when it counted.

In the statistical battle of the two former NBA stars. Wilkins had 28 points on 10-19 shooting. including 3-4 from three-point range. He was 5-6 from the line and pulled down six rebounds.

Chambers fouled out with 20 points on 7-13 shooting and 5-6 from the free-throw line. He had nine rebouods.

Chambers scored 14 of his points in the first half, which saw Maccabi take a 31-24 advantage with 6:50 left before the break. However, Miroslav Mylonao-

Petsaski - who came into the game for the largely ineffective Vrankovic after he committed his third foul midway through the period - scored eight points down stretch to help send Panathinaikos to the locker room with a 46-44 lead.

The Greeks took the lead oo a last-second three-pointer from Ekonomou in a perfectly executed offensive sequence.

For Maccabi, Chambers had 20, Radisav Curcic 17 (with 10 rebounds), Doron Jamchee with

15 and Brad Leaf 12. Ekonomou scored 35 for Panathinaikos, while Wilkens had 28, Mylonao-Petsaski 8 and Vrankovic only 7 (with only six

rebounds). Pau-Orthez captured the fourth and final quarter-final spot from Group B, after Barcelona had already clinched first place in the group with a 106-94 victory over Benfica Lisbon on Wednesday.

In Group A, CSKA Moscow, Olympiakos Benetton Treviso and Malaga advanced o the qaurter-finals.

Gro	ир В		
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Magic logs triple-double

INGLEWOOD (AP) - Magic Johnson, in his longest stint since his return, logged his first tripledouble io five years with 15 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers edged the Atlanta Hawks 87-86.

Johnson, in his sixth game since coming out of retirement oo January 29, played 39 minutes and was orchestrating the show for the Lakers as the game went down to the wire.

With the Lakers trailing 86-85, Johnson passed to Vlade Divac who was fouled and made both free throws to put Los Angeles up hy a point with 19 seconds left.

Craig Ehlo, who made a 3point shot to put the Hawks ahead with 25 seconds remaining, missed a desperation shot at the

Steve Smith led Atlanta with 20 points, and Grant Long had 16 points and a career-high 21 rebounds. Elden Campbell was the Lakers' leading scorer with 20 points despite fouling ont with 10 minutes left. Hornets 120, Knicks 100

Glen Rice and Kenny Anderson host Charlotte match its largest winning margin of the season.

Rice had 29 points and Anderson 14 assists for the Homets, who built a

35-point lead on the way to winning for just the second time in six games. New York came in having won six of seven, but Charlotte was able to draw the Knicks out of the deliberate, physical game they are accustomed to playing. The result was a 30-4 advantage in fast-break points for the Hornets and their eighth victory in 10 games against New York.

Patrick Ewing had 26 points to lead the Knieks.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Detroit 182, Philadelphia 83 New Jersey 88, Iadinaa 87 Charlotte 120, New York 100 Sentile 130, Minnesotz 93 Vancouver 93, Sacramento 86 Golden State 106, Boston 103

SPORTS BRIEFS

S. Africa-UAE match rained out The rain-hit World Cup match between South Africa and the United Arab Emirates has been postponed to today, officials

The decision came after frantic efforts by workers, using blankets, straw brushes, mops and sponges, failed to dry the pitch and outfield at the Pindi stadium yesterday morning. "We will try again tomorrow," said umpire Steve Buckner of the West Indies. "But the sun will have to continue to shine if-

Colts name Infante new coach The Indianapolis Colts, who released Ted Marchibroda as coach over a contract dispute last week, hired Lindy Infante yesterday, just hours after Marchibroda became coach of the relocated American National Football League team in

Infante, 55, the former coach of the Green Bay Packers, was out of gridiron football for three years until the Colts brought him back as offensive coordinator last season.

Morrison: I don't know how I got AIDS Boxer Tommy Morrison, who has been diagnosed as having the virus that causes AIDS, says be is not sure whether he .. contracted HIV through his active sex life or from boxing. "I don't know if I got it from a girl or fighting," Morrison said in an interview with The Kansas City Star.

Huddersfield player fails drugs test Craig Whitington, a striker with First Division promotion hopefuls Huddersfield Town was charged by the English Football Association with misconduct yesterday after a second positive test for cannabis in 10 months.

Whitington, 25, has been suspended by his club and has 14 days to respond to the charge which follows last week's decision by Leyton Orient to sack Roger Stanislans after he tested positive for cocaine and was suspended from playing for a year.

Shapiro wins at Caesarea

This weekend's individual stableford competition at the Caesarea Golf Chib was won by Max Shapiro in Division A with 38 points. In second with the same total but an inferior back nine was Kobi Hacham. Basil Kanfman was third at 34. In Division B. Mati Geri led with 39, with Chuck

Shaikowitz second at 36 and Sigi Geiger third at 34. Moshe Zarkover was first in Division C with 39, followed by Ed Pizer wit 38 and Jules Cuburnek with 37.

The street of th

In Division D, Aharon Tzur had 39, Nate Kansky 34 and Mike Bannister Deverall Dentch 33.



ON TUESDAY - SPORTS DAY IN POST

The Cricket World Cup is underway and all the latest NBA and British Soccer News, in the 12-page supplement, The World of Sport.

DON'T MISS IT!

Ein Gedi race tomorrow

HEATHER CHAIT

THE 14th Ein Gedi race sets off tomorrow, following the road along the Dead Sea from Ein Gedi spa to Masada.

The race honors the memory of Giora and Tomer Ron who were poor night. members of Kibbutz Ein Gedi. Giora, a keen runner, was killed during his IDF service and Tomer was involved in a fatal work acci- cluding 1-of-7 from 3-point range dent on the kibbutz.

Runners from Morocco. Bahrain, Russia, Colombia, Hungary and the Ukraine have entered the race alongside Israel's top eotries Dov Kremer and Amit Ne'eman.

Besides the 21.1 kilometer pm, races over 3km and 10km good night." will also be held with starting times of 1 pm and 2 pm

respectively. One of the day's highlights will be the 10km rollerblades competition which has attracted a lineup game. of over 100 rollerblade

ARE our judo heroes slipping off

A blow of another sort hap-

pened to Yaron as she arrived io

Paris only to learn she was 1.5

kilograms over her weight cate-

"Don't worry about me. I plan

on being on the podium in

SFI's demise

Things are winding down in the Sports Federation of Israel Outgoing

Chairman Yehezkel Harmelechre-

fused pleas to reconsider bis

Last word goes to Smadja,

gory and so could not fight.

Atianta."

Parts of route No. 90 will be closed between 1 pm and 4 pm

Sheffer's 23 points lead UConn to victory

STORRS, Conn. (AP) - One of the qualities of a highly ranked team is the ability to compensate when its best player is having a

Connecticut's Ray Allen scored just 13 points, 10 below his average, on 4-of-13 shooting - in-- Wednesday night, yet the third-ranked Huskies still beat West Virginia 87-69. 'Ray did not have a particular-

good night," Connecticut conch Jim Calhoun said. "He's having a particularly good season but half-marathon beginning at 2:10 he did not bave a particularly Instead, backcourtmate Doron

Sheffer stepped up with 23 points, six assists and six rebounds to lead the Huskies. who won their 22nd consecutive

"I hope most of the time they don't need me to do that," Sheffer said. "They've done well without me leading the scoring. I

felt good, especially offensively. I took my regular shots and they

CONNECTICUT 87, W. VRIGINIA 69
WEST VIRGENIA (9-13)
Owers 8-12-0-18, Idatone 4-5 4-4 12,
Vargao 2-50-1 4, Simpson 3-80-05, Jefferson 4-10 4-4 14, Solheim 5-8 3-4 13, Jones 0-50-00, Agnew 1-10-0 2, West 1-10-02, Lamb 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 28-58 11-13 89.
CONNECTICUT (23-1)
King 5-7 1-3 13, Johnson 5-9 2-2 12, Knight 5-8 0-0 10, Sheffer 8-13 1-2 23, Alien 4-13 4-5 13, Moore 1-3 2-4 4, Kleiber 1-1 0-1 2, Hayward 1-2 2-2 4, Carson 3-5 0-0 6. Totals 34-51 12-20 87.
Halftime — Connecticut 45, West Virginia 35. 3-Point goals — West Virginia 2-12, Jones 0-4), Connecticut 7-21 (Sheffer 6-10, Alien 1-7, Moore 0-1, Johnson 0-1, Carson 0-2). Fouded out — None. Rebounds — West Virginia 21 (Simpson, Malons 4), Connecticut 40 (Knight 9). Assists — West Virginia 20 (Owens 9), Connecticut 23 (Sheffer 6). Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 21 9, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 2-10, Total fouls — West Virginia 2-10, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 2-10, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — West Virginia 2-10, Connecticut 1-1, Total fouls — Connecticut 1-1

cut coach Calhoun. A - 8,241.

AP's TOP 25 RESULTS (Wednesday):
No. 2. Kentocky (21:-1) best Grouph 86-73
No. 3 Connection (23:-1) best West Virgula 87-74
No. 4. Villmown (22:-3) best Seton Hall 79-87.
No. 5 Kinsan (28:-2) best Colorado 85-78.
No. 9. Pesis State (18:-3) lost to Indiana 72-84.
No. 12. Teras Teck (21:-1) best Beptor 78-72.
No. 17. North Corollon 117-73 best Cennon 53-88.
No. 23. E. Méch. (18:-3) lost to Bowling Green 72-78.
No. 23. E. Méch. (18:-3) lost to Bowling Green 72-78.

Mac. TA hoping for revenge against Hapoel Haifa

TEL AVIV against Haifa is the order of the day in tomorrow's National League soccer action.

The height of the action will commence in the late match at Bloomfield between leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv and fourth-placed Hapoel Haifa, with the Tel Avivians seeking revenge for the three-goal drubbing they received first time around this

Haifa will be at full strength, with Reuven Atar and Tal Banin teaming up in an effort to keep up with the leaders. The team is six points adrift of Maccabi and a loss tomorrow would almost certainly spell doom for its championship hopes. Maccahi Haifa takes on Ha-

poel Tel Aviv at Kiryat Eliezer. If the visitors want to come away with a win, they will probably need as much luck as their manager, Moshe Sinai, had in the Toto last week, when he picked up NIS 390,000 for forecasting all 15 results correctly.

Maccabi Haifa in third, is five

points behind the leaders and it too will be wary of dropping points against fifth-placed Hapoel Tel Aviv, a club, which despite the skills of former international Shalom Tikva is not a serious match for the too clubs

and is out of the title hunt.

Secood-placed Betar Jerusalem is paying its debt to the IFA for unruly behavior hy its supporters and will play its home match against Maccabi Jaffa as a radius fixture in Herzliya.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches tomorrow at 15:00 unless oth-erwise stated, first round results in trentheses): Buei Yekuda v. Ironi Rishon Lezion, Ha-

Baei Yehada v. Ironi Rishou Lezion, Ha-tikva Quarter (0-2); Maccahi Tei Aviv v. Hapoel Haifa, Bloomfield, 18:00 (0-3); Betar Tei Aviv v. Rispoel Kfur Sava, Bloomfield, 15:30 (4-1); Hapoel Beit She'an v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Beit She'an (1-2); Retar Jerusalem v. Maccabi Jaffa, Herziiya (3-0); Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Beersheba, Petah Tikva (0-0); Zafrisha Holou v. Maccabi Herziiya, Rolou (1-0); Maccabi Haifa v. Hapoel Tei Aviv, Kiryat Eficzer (3-1).

NATIONAL LEAGUE After 18 rounds

	•••	_			_	
Mac. Tel Aviv	14	2	2	40	13	4
Bet. Jerusalem	12	S	1	41	18	4
Mac. Halfa	11	8	1	47	21	3
Han, Haite	11	S	2	40	19	3
Hap. Tel Aviv	9	4	S	20	18	3
Mac. Petah Tikon	a	a	4	28	24	3
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Rishon Lazion	S	Ž	11	15	23	i
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Mac. Jetta	7	5	12	15	35	i
Bet. Tel Aviv	4	3	12	20	44	i
COURT I AM LABORA	-	-		~~		

Not a good week for Israeli judokas The national figure skating compe-

their pedestal? This week saw HEATHER CHAIT Oren Smadja, Yael Arad and Einat Yaron all io less thao resignation, blaming personal business commitments, while the SFI it-self will lock its doors finally on Smadja is suffering from a March 31 even though January salaslipped disc in his back which he

ries are still umpaid. A sidekick of the dissolution is that the Elite Sport Unit at Wingare will incurred at a training camp in Japan while Arad ended the Paris Tournament with no medal. Afnow fall under the Israel Olympic Committee, instead of the SFL ter beating Belgium's world For Shmuel Lalkin, director generchampion Gela van de Caveya, al of the SFL the move shouldn't be Arad lost her next two rounds, traumatic; he is the head of the Elite

Sport Unit's administration. Brothers in water Yachtsmen Nir and Ran Chantal are lying in fifth place in the Olympic-470 division World Championships being held in Brazil. Feeling left out are their rivals for the Olympic squad, Eli Zuckerman and Sa'ar Behr, who failed to qualify for the final round by

Shani Kidmi and Anat Fabrikant are in 20th spot among the women with the last races to be held Skating in Metalla

Go to Metulla's Canada Center to-

morrow if you're looking for real art.

tition begins at noon with participants as young as six showing their skills. Among the couples dancing will be Israel's representatives to the World Championships in Canada in March, Galii Chail and Sergei Sahnovsky. Finding their way
The mountain bikers wending their

way through the Ben-Shemen Forest last week were definitely not fost. They were competing in the first ori-enteering competition held for cyclists, which is set to become a new branch of the International Orienteeting Federation. The bikers maneuvered their way around 12 points and covered a distance between 16 and 20 kilometers, depending on their

Tomorrow's competition in Park Hasharon will be on foot, offering six competitive toutes and a popular path. For fun for the whole family, call 03- 9672753. What a wonderful world

Wonders still exist. Pele, the world's best soccer player and Brazil's Minister of Sport, will visit Israel's boly spots with a group of pilgrims in March or April. As if Pele hasn't already booked himself a place in heaven ...

Port Vale upsets Everton

scored one of the biggest upsets in English history Wednesday wheo it knocked defending champion Everton out of the FA Cup on a 2-1 scoreline. Struggling to avoid relegation

to English soccer's division two, Vale grabbed its stunning victory when Jon McCarthy scored the winner in the 69th minute.

Vale, which now visits Leeds for a place in the last eight, had gained a replay by scoring a last minute equalizer at Goodison

Park in a 2-2 tie 10 days ago. Ian Bogie scored that late leveler and he also netted the first at Vale Park in the replay after 17 minutes before Graham Stuart

replied for Everton in the 32nd. In the first leg of a League Cup

LONDON (AP) - Port Vale semifical at Highbury, Arsenal and Aston Villa tied 2-2. Goals by Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp gave Arsenal a 2-0 lead hefore Tohagan striker Dwight Yorke made it six in three games with two for Villa.

At Burnden Park, Rod Wallace scored the only goal of the game as Leeds triumphed over Bolton.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: English League Cap (semifinal, first leg): Arsenal 2, Aston Villa 2; FA Cap (fourth Round): Bolton 6, Leeth 1; Fourth round replays: Port Vale 2, Everton 1; Manchester City 2, Coventry 1; Grimsby 3, West Ham 6.

FA Cup fifth round draw: Tomorrow – lpswich v Aston Villa, Swindon v South-ampton, Huddersfield v Wimbledon, Snnampion, Husberstein V Winnierom, Sin-tay - Manchester United v Manchester City, Monday - Nottingham Forest v Tot-tenham, Wednesday - Leeds v Port Vale, Grinsby v Chelsca, Wednesday - Shrews-bury or Liverpool v Charlton.

Amir trial judge responds to Aloni

TEL Aviv District Court Judge Edmond Levy, presiding over the trial of Yigal Amir, yesterday responded in court to the criticism of his conduct of the trial by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

"I considered long and hard if it was proper for me to respond," Levy said, "and I came to the conclusion that I would not be true to myself if I did not publicly express my feelings. Honest criticism of the justice system is desirable as a necessary condition for ensuring public faith in the system, a trust without which it has no right to exist.

"But criticism is one thing, and slamming a judge is another. The things that have been said recently are damaging. Even though they may not have been meant that way, they leave the impression that some people are trying to make the judge afraid in order to influence the way the trial is con-

EVELYN GORDON and ITI

To those people, I want to say that in my eyes the work of a judge is a mission. I cannot accept any attempt to threaten a court, whether it comes from the high and the mighty, or from the man in the street.

"To bring this whole matter to a close, I want to make it clear that I will not change my habits and I will continue to run my courtroom according to the wisdom God has given me and according to the dictates of my conscience. I will not be intimidated."

"I also understand ways position

"I also understand your position to be that if your words were interpreted as an attempt to interfere with the procedures of the trial, you are sorry about this," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided not to open criminal proceedings against

Aloni because of her remarks, though he sharply criticized her behavior.

Amir's attorney, Shmuel Fleishman, and MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) had both asked that Aloni be investigated for possible violations of the sub judice laws and contempt of court. However, BenYair noted that the state has generally refrained from indicting people for sub judice violations unless their remarks are liable to influence witnesses, which is not

the case here.

Furthermore, Ben-Yair said, an explanatory letter which he received from Aloni indicated that she did not intend to either sabotage the court's stature or interfere with its proceedings, and that she was sorry if her words had been interpreted in such a way. Such intent is necessary to convict someone for such a crime, he

Israeli team helps find drug for leukemia cases

JUDY SIEGE

A NEW drug, developed by Israeli and Canadian researchers and tested on animals, offers hope to children suffering from a type of leukemia that relapses and doesn't responded to any other kind of

The drug, called AG-490, is meant for young sufferers of acute lymphoblastic leukemia who relapse. About 80 percent of patients with this most common form of childhood cancer can be treated with chemotherapy.

Dr. Alexander Levitski, of the Hebrew University, and Dr. Chaim Roifman, of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, head a team that developed a novel concept in leukemia treatment after looking at the chemical response of cells to JAK-2 protein tyrosine kinase, a signaling protein that becomes acti-

vated in immune system cells of patients having a relapse. The drug, blocks the protein from working and causes the affected blood cells to die as they are supposed to.

The joint team tested AG-490 on cell cultures and in mice. The inhi-

cell cultures and in mice. The inhibition of JAK-2 was found to selectively block leukemic cell growth by inducing programmed cell death, according to a scientific report on the drug published yesterday in Nature.

The researchers, whose work is being funded by the National Cancer Institute and Medical Research Council of Canada and the Sugen company in Redwood, California, said more research is needed to make the drug ready for testing on humans. The patent has been registered by Yissum, the HU'a R & D branch.



New OC Southern Command

Yanai takes over as OC Southern Command

MAI-GEN. Shlomo Yanai yesterday took over as OC Southern Command, replacing Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who took over as General Staff Headquarters and will soon join-the team negotiating with the Syrians.

ing with the Syrians.

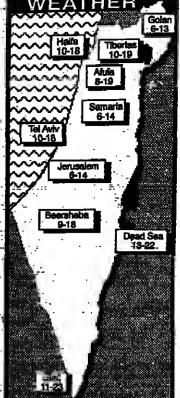
Yanai, 44, received the Medal of Valor after being wounded twice in the You Kippur War. He served in a variety of Armored Corps commands tiefore taking over the Planning and Armament Division in the Ground Corps Command three-and-shalf years ago. He is a graduate of Tel Aviv University and studied at the National Security College in Washington.

Mofaz, 48, participated in the Entebbe raid, and commanded the officers' school and later a paratroop brigade. He was appointed commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria in August 1993, and theo served as OC Southern Command for the past 14 months. (Itim)

14 years for double rape

BEHAJEM Mandu, 22, of Beit Jann, who had been convicted of raping two women at knife-point last year, was sentenced to 14 years in prison by the Haifa District Court yesterday.

The court said it is incumbent upon the justice system to hand down deterrent sentences on those convicted of sex crimes in order to discourage violeoce against



Forecast: Perity cloudy. Possibility of rain, mainly in the north

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